UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

December 2000
Number 377

PRESS DEMOCRAT, Santa Rosa, CA - Oct. 15, 2000



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judy Messoline, left, and her partner, Stan Becker, stand outside the gift shop on their Colorado ranch where they have built a 10-foot-high UFO-watching platform. Messoline, an "X-Files" fan, has seen strange lights in the sky.

ALIEN COUNTRY

UFO watchtower provides a platform for true believers

By JUDITH KOHLER
Associated Press

HOOPER, Colo. — "I want to believe." It's the message plastered on the office wall of UFO-hunting FBI agent Fox Mulder in TV's "The X-Files." It also could be Judy Messoline's personal mantra.

She wants to believe, like the people who visit her San Luis Valley ranch in search of the mysterious lights and other-worldly craft, rumored for decades in the area.

Messoline, a big fan of "The X-Files," admits having seen strange lights in the sky. As for believing in UFOs, she said: "It would take one landing so I could take a look."

Messoline, 55, and partner Stan Becker have built a 10-foot-high UFO-watching platform on their 620-acre ranch near Hooper, a town of about 120 residents 220 miles southwest of Denver.

They charge $2 admission and rent binoculars for the faithful and the curious to watch the skies. The ranch also offers rustic campsites and a domed gift shop stocked with "alien dust," posters, big-eyed, shiny extraterrestrial dolls and pyramid candles.

Stories of supernatural phenomena abound in this naturally spectacular 50-mile-wide, 125-mile-long valley, which is 7,600 feet in altitude and ringed by the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains.

Messoline's watchtower gives a view of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, with its 750-foot-tall dunes. The book "The Mysterious Valley," by Christopher O'Brien, examines reports through the years of cattle mutilations, mysterious helicopters and oddly shaped aircraft hovering over the San Luis Valley.

O'Brien, who lives in the tiny valley town of Crestone, said his 1993 stories about unexplained phenomena in a local paper inspired normally reticent residents of the ranching and farming area to tell him about their experiences.

Messoline got the idea to build the watchtower after putting up with ET enthusiasts camping on her property. She also needed to make some money because cattle ranching, which drew her to the valley five years ago, was foundering.

The green, glow-in-the-dark ET cutouts that point the way to the lookout tower attest to Messoline's sense of humor. So does the big chunk of land she and Becker roped off as designated UFO parking.

The watchtower opened for business Memorial Day weekend. Becker and Messoline, who live in a log house on their spread, planned to keep it open Fridays and Saturdays during the fall because business has been so good. A steady stream of visitors, including some tour groups, kept them busy last summer.

"It really did work out okey-dokey," said Messoline, who is delighted by the fascination with UFOs — unidentified flying objects.

People who read articles about the watchtower or heard radio reports in other parts of the country visited out of curiosity.

For others, it has been a stop on a circuit that included Roswell, N.M., scene of an alleged UFO crash in 1947 and the site of the annual UFO Encounter, which draws tens of thousands of people.

"I didn't realize I could work 11 hours a day, seven days a week and giggle the whole time," Messoline said.

For some, though, it is no laughing matter. Messoline has recorded hours of conversations with people seeking a place to tell their tales of extraterrestrial encounters without fear of ridicule.

Messoline's UFO watchtower is another outlet.

"A lot of residents in the valley say, 'We know we can come here and discuss it. If you tell anybody around town, they think you're crazy,' " she said.

Saguache County Undersheriff Mike Norris said his office doesn't get frequent reports about mysterious lights or crafts. "But people talk and it gets out," he said.

Norris has seen people stake out parts of the valley for hours, waiting for a glimpse of something sensational. In 1967, the sensation was the death of Snippy the horse.

As recounted in O'Brien's book, the horse, whose real name was Lady, was found stripped of part of its flesh, drained of fluids and with its hindquarters removed.

O'Brien said the carcass was found about the same time UFOs were reported in the area and the incident became part of the lore surrounding other strange deaths of animals.

Candace Knowlan, who owns a shop in Hooper, has seen strange things in the sky since moving to the San Luis Valley six years ago. She's not sure if the area is a magnet for extraterrestrials or if city dwellers are blind to other-wordly visions because of bright lights at night and busy lives.

"I'm not egotistical enough to think that in this entire cosmos we're the only intelligent life to be created," Knowlan said as she used binoculars to scan the wide, dark sky from the watchtower platform. "If nothing else, you get to stand here and look at all the stars."

SUBURBAN TRENDS, Butler, NJ - Oct. 29, 2000

Lights over the Wanaque

My Word



By Holly Ennist Stewart

If you thought unexplained phenomena occurred only in places like Roswell, New Mexico and on the set of "The X-Files," the story I'm about to tell you might change your mind. Thirty-four years ago, beginning on a crispy cold January night, some area residents saw something in the sky over Wanaque Reservoir.

Just after 6:30 p.m. on that Tuesday evening, the local police began receiving reports of a – glowing light, possibly a fire – hovering in the air over the water. Other witnesses were less coy about what they thought they had seen. Wanaque Patrol Officer Joseph Cisco remembers the broadcast on his police radio stating that, "People in Oakland, Ringwood, Paterson, Totowa and Butler claim there's a flying saucer over the Wanaque." At that point, Cisco headed to a sandpit near the Raymond Dam to get a better look at what was going on.

Once there, he saw a light that looked bigger than any of the stars… It was a pulsating white stationary light changing to red. It stayed in the air. There was no noise. Several other prominent citizens joined Cisco in the sandpit, including (then) Mayor Harry Wolfe and his 14-year-old son Billy, who told reporters the next day about the oddly gliding object that did not flicker and changed colors from white to red to green and back again. The Mayor described what he saw as oval in shape, and estimated it to be between two and nine feet in diameter.

Not surprisingly, around this time the police radios began to jam up and people began appearing around the edge of the reservoir. Traffic gummed up Ringwood Avenue and the police had to close the main gate of the reservoir to keep the curious onlookers to a minimum. Of course, by then, it was already too late.

Just when it seemed that strange evening couldn't get any weirder, it did. The UFO suddenly emitted a beam of light, which pierced the ice on the reservoir. Our eyewitnesses climbed up on top of the dam to examine what was happening; Town Councilman Warren Hagstrom recalled that, "it looked like a helicopter with big landing lights on… but we didn't hear a motor." They stood watching the object do whatever it was doing for nearly a half-hour before it suddenly retrieved the light beam and took off to the southeast. It was seen again hovering briefly over Lakeland Regional High School and then again over the Houdaille sandpit in Haskell where volunteer firemen were burning Christmas trees. After that, it headed toward the Pines Lake section of Wayne.

The next morning at 4 a.m., Cisco again saw the object flying north to south over the town of Wyckoff. He and Sgt. David Sisco took turns looking at it through binoculars. When he got home that morning, his wife told him she had seen it, too. Later that night, Sgt. Sisco and former Wanaque policeman Charles Theodora went atop the Raymond Dam to witness the light yet again. Theodora, who had previously thought UFOs were "a lot of bull," described seeing "a cylinder" that was "moving back and forth in a rocking chair motion," before it shot straight up into the night and became just another light in the sky.

Shortly after these events took place, radar was installed on top of the dam. Spring and summer came and went without further incident, until the night o Oct. 10, when the lights returned. Sgt. Ben Thompson watched the object from a spot on West Brook Road: "It was doing tricks, making acute angular turns instead of gradual curved ones. It didn't make much noise, but as it was moving, it raised the water beneath it." When Thompson turned on his cherries to prevent a collision between the cars that were gathering to witness this latest occurrence, the object sped away over the water and disappeared, as though "it had gone right into the mountain."

There have been lesser sightings over the Wanaque both before and after the events I've described here, but there has never been a satisfactory explanation for them. One nutty offering came from Robert Jones, whose Byram-based organization Vestigia stated in 1979 that the lights were the product of seismic pressure from the nearby Ramapo fault. Jones claimed that an electrical field created underground in quartz rock will ionize air particles exposed to this field and the result is a glowing sphere of light. The Army, meanwhile, tried to pass off the phenomena as helicopters or "swamp gas." Yeah, okay.

Just maybe this Tuesday night, as you're trick-or-treating in the chilly autumn air, you'll see something that you can't explain. Keep your chin up and your eyes wide, however, because it's a big sky up there, especially over the Wanaque.

NEWS-RECORD, Mabel, MN - March 15, 2000

A Man Named Wille — Wanamingo man featured in British magazine

By Sara Carlson

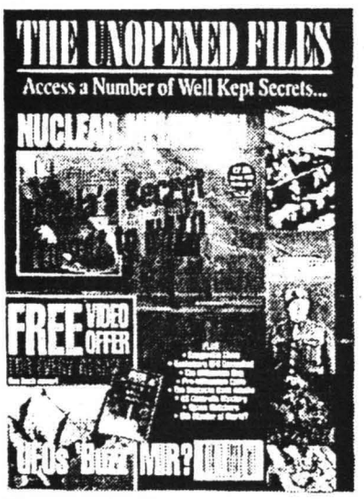
WANAMINGO — Many people in the area may not necessarily know Les Wille by name, but mention the place in Wanamingo with all the satellite dishes and everyone knows who you're talking about. But, according to Wille, everyone in England is familiar with him. All because of a video tape.

Wille is an amateur astronomer and enjoys watching the skies. In the summer of 1997, the video he shot of a tornado passing very close to the city of Wanamingo was aired on Twin Cities news broadcasts, as well as on a national cable weather channel. But this is not the video that has made him famous abroad.

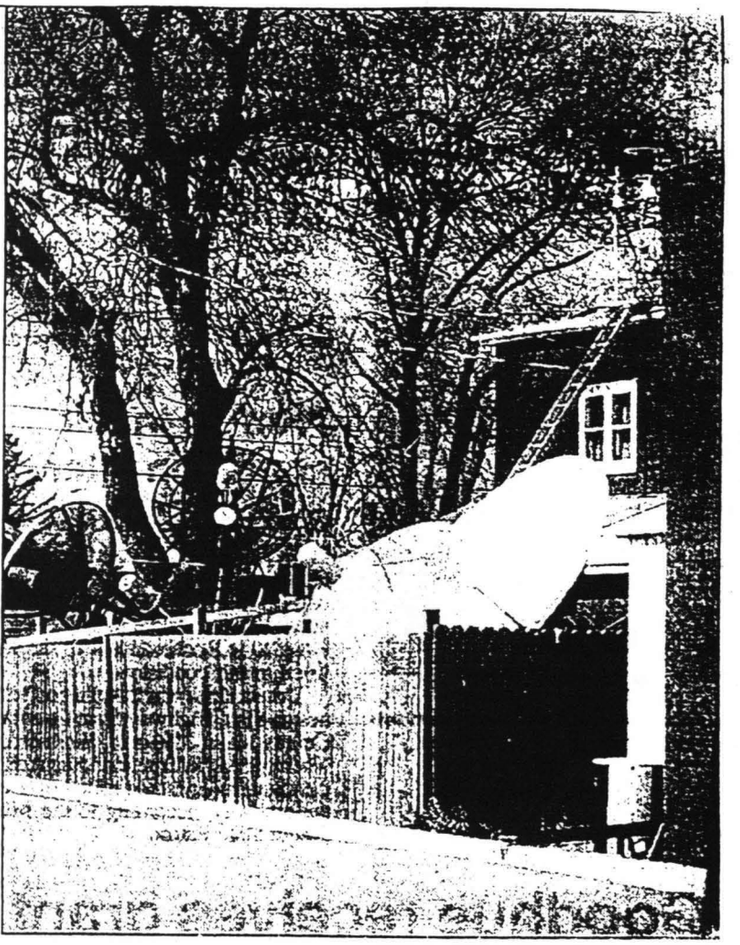
In May 1997 Wille, who at that time had only four satellite dishes in his back yard, picked up transmissions from NASA of the docking and undocking of STS-84 and the orbiting *Mir* space station. These transmissions were recorded, and he was later amazed to discover that the recordings contained numerous irregular objects passing close to and beyond the *Mir* space station. Later, a "fleet" of sphere-like objects crosses the screen in an extraordinary display of what he deems to be "intelligently controlled maneuvers."

The NASA channel from which Wille recorded the footage was open to the public until shortly after the incident with the Mir space station. Wille received the direct feed that is transmitted to Houston during all the shuttle missions and stayed up late at night for weeks to record images from STS-84, STS-94, STS-85 and STS-86. After these particular space shuttle missions, NASA announced there would be no more public feed due to "technical difficulties."

Wille believes that NASA has something to hide; they insist that his footage shows nothing that can't be explained. He believes that the objects seen are "controlled craft" manufactured "by our own scientists or by something unearthly," perhaps genuine UFOs.



The cover of The Unopened Files, a magazine published in England which included an article about a tape made by Les Wille. The magazine was offering copies of the *Mir* space station tape to its readers for them to see for themselves and make up their own minds concerning the strange objects on the video.



Numerous satellite dishes enable Wille to pick up broadcasts from around the world, including direct feed from space via the NASA channel.

He feels that NASA would be acutely embarrassed if these images were broadcast by major television news networks, possibly causing political turmoil.

Wille tried to attract the attention of scientists and media in the United States, even showing it to representatives from KSTP-Channel 5 when they came to his home to view his tornado video. Everyone seemed to want to explain the objects away, saying that they are just ice chunks and advising him to forget about it.

Wille felt the video was too important to let go, and continued to contact people through the Internet, going as far as writing a letter to the television show "Sightings."

He contacted a woman in Florida who was interested in his footage. In the fall of 1998 he mailed a copy of the tape, including a self-narrated introduction to her. This woman sent the tape to a scientist in England who was very interested, and definitely believed the objects on the tape were not ice chunks.

The editors of the magazine *The Unopened Files* also viewed the tape and published an article along with numerous pictures taken from the video in the spring 1999 edition.

What Wille and others have seen on the tape of the STS-84 undocking is pulsating lights coming towards the *Mir* station in groups; two come up, two more come behind it, they pass the two at the bottom then they go past the Mir space station.

A group of three come up and the one in the centre comes across and stops, "which looks like its right underneath the *Mir* space station and then goes up ... between the two solar-array panels."

Wille says he's shown the tape to people who absolutely refuse to believe that these could be genuine alien spacecraft, who have come to the conclusion, after seeing the tape, that the objects could possibly be unidentified flying objects of unknown origin. They are convinced that NASA is lying and that the tape shows something very significant.

What Wille wants is for NASA to tell the truth. But to quote the article in *The Unopened Files*, "It's difficult to form any considered judgement so long as NASA refuses to issue a statement which may shed light on the matter. Could NASA's silence be in part due to the fact that they dare not acknowledge the existence of the footage itself?"

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Oct. 10, 2000 CR: B. Hamilton

Black world planes fly dark skies

Secret aircraft unveiling rumored to be imminent

EDITOR'S NOTE: The fifth installment in a weeklong series.

By DENNIS ANDERSON
Valley Press Editor

PALMDALE — Along with the much photographed, sleek F-15 Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons blasting over Edwards Air Force Base, there are beyond-Top Secret "black aircraft" swooping like stealthy ravens above the Antelope Valley.

These planes criss-cross the dark skies of the Southwest on their way to perform missions too secret to tell about.

The black world planes wing their way out toward remote regions of Nevada and other stations of the southwestern states military complex, carrying a half-century's history of Cold War mystery into the 21st century.

Recent murmurings in the black project community, along with the current November issue of the national magazine Popular Science, indicate that another mystery plane may materialize soon, with industry sources saying a bird could come out of the black by Election Day.

Or it may never happen.

That is just the way it goes with black world programs, known in Pentagon argot as Special Access Programs. Such programs are overseen by a select few who keep a limited number of members of Congress and their staff informed on program development in classified briefings.

The November cover story of Popular Science depicts a black world-style fighter-bomber nicknamed "Switchblade" by pilots because of its switch-wing capability.

The plane dubbed "Bird of Prey" by magazine writer Steve Douglass is described as a follow-on to the FB-111 Aardvark switch-wing fighter-bomber of Vietnam vintage that bombed Libyan strongman Moammar Khadafy's palace in 1985.

Existence of a plane like the one described in Popular Science was denied unequivocally by an Air Force official knowledgeable about cutting-edge programs.

The official — with a flight test background — contended that the plane depicted in Popular Science's speculative illustrations defies certain engineering principles and aspects of "low observable," or stealth, technology.

Members of the community who monitor developments in defense, however, cite historical precedents for de-classification of covert programs during election season, particularly for Democratic administrations.

During his election battle with the late Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, former President Lyndon B. Johnson revealed the cutting-edge "Blackbird" spy plane as a means of showing his administration was not soft on defense.

A similar occurrence erupted during the campaign end game between Ronald Reagan and former President Jimmy Carter.



Our Dark Skies series

Antelope Valley residents watch the skies. Mostly we are looking for anything fascinating that flies. We know that our Valley is crucible to the world's premier military aircraft — the U-2, the F-117 stealth fighter, the B-2 stealth bomber.

Drawing from open source materials and primary source interviews, the Valley Press offers a week's worth of stories that explores the landscape of the fabled "black world" and beyond, another extra for Valley Press readers.

If it exists, or existed, Aurora is wrapped so tight within the cloak of secrecy that it remains in the black the same way that the F-117 stealth fighter and B-2 stealth bomber remained long hidden from view.

Such programs develop under the auspices of a kind of "shadow" Air Force, Sweetman said.

In a recent article for International Defense Review, the author noted that the Air Force $7.4 billion budget for classified procurement is more than a third of the service arm's total budget. In fiscal year 2001, Sweetman noted, the Air Force plans to spend $4.96 billion on classified research and development.

That extraordinary amount of public funds is concealed within programs that American taxpayers must take on faith are well-run and well-maintained to the benefit of the security of the United States.

If it exists, Aurora remains in the black, along with a range of as many as 150 covert programs that are approved by the Department of Defense at the secretary level, with varying levels of congressional oversight.

Aurora footprints

Aurora, reported through the 1990s in publications ranging from the Washington Post to Aviation Week & Space Technology, was believed to be a high-altitude spy plane with revolutionary propulsion technology.

The plane, subject of rare but unacknowledged glimpsed sightings, was believed to be able to travel in the Mach-6 regime, leaving space shuttle-like sonic cracks in its wake.

"Aurora was described as everything under the sun," Pike observed. "It was every exotic, high-altitude technology imaginable."

Seven years ago, author Sweetman published a book about Aurora, deducing that it was a hypersonic spy plane, a kind of follow-on to the Blackbird spy plane variants. Seven years later, with Aurora still elusive, Sweetman wonders.

"I don't know," he said. "It could have been. It was technically feasible."

Sweetman also observed that some black programs exist behind a kind of fig leaf, a form of cover. He cited the white world development of the National Aerospace Plane project, curtailed in the early 1990s. Perhaps a cover for a covert program, it could be that such a project dropped from sight, vanishing into the secret military realm.

One characteristic of the Aurora footprints were space shuttle-type sonic booms, some actually recorded by the U.S. Geological Service on the same inbound trajectory a space shuttle would achieve on its way to a landing at — Edwards Air Force Base.

"There were those mysterious sonic boom reports," Sweetman said. "And they continue."

And the sonic boom reports continue periodically, he noted. His views, now, he said, are open to the idea that such a plane might be "high-supersonic" as opposed to hypersonic.

Programs denied

If a significant program is undergoing de-classification study as reported by Popular Science, it won't be the first time that Air Force officials have denied it, or just said, "That isn't the plane."

In an article for International Defense Review, Sweetman noted that officials in charge of "core secrets" for so-called unacknowledged or black programs have the authority — even the duty — to deny existence of a program.

In the mid-1980s, speculation abounded about the existence of a stealth fighter that could elude radar, and a stealth bomber that resembled the old Flying Wing bombers designed by Jack Northrop in the 1940s.

In 1986, the famous scale model company — Testor — invited Congressional scrutiny when it unveiled its own "F-19 stealth fighter" model, three years before the F-117 came out of the black.

With bland equanimity, Air Force officials said "beautiful" but that wasn't any plane in the Air Force inventory.

When the F-117 was unveiled, to the uninstructed viewer it bore at least as many visual similarities as differences to the Testor model.

John Andrews, designer of the Testor model, noted that he was within 3% of the size dimensions of the real McCoy. That may be close in horseshoes — far away in engineering scale — but not bad for a model configured by dead reckoning.

The model was smooth and rounded, black and sleek. The F-117 Nighthawk, faceted like a diamond, was black and sleek.

The black program was known as Have Blue. And its security remained tight until the veil was removed at the highest level of authority.

The plane, though invisible to the public for a decade — guarded and maintained by a cadre of secret patriots — was real enough.

Model-makers

In similar fashion, a model of a stealth bomber bore more than passing resemblance to the real McCoy unveiled at the end of the 1990s. That model by Revell also bore close resemblance to technical sketch speculations published by Sweetman in his "Secrets of Future Airpower" book.

Recalling the 1980s, defense analyst Pike said there are key differences about trying to scope out what was happening with black budget projects then vs. now.

"There was a paper trail," he said. "With the F-117 and the B-2, there never was a doubt that they existed."

Internet sites now abound that explore the fascinations that black program aircraft hold for aviation enthusiasts.

They also carry freewheeling discussions between people who believe there is a connection between black world aircraft programs and UFO sightings.

The Air Force has had little to say about UFO sightings since it closed its own Project Blue Book early in the 1970s or issued its own report "Roswell — Case Closed," citing the 1947 Roswell incident as a black world classified project to send reconnaissance balloons over the Soviet Union.

Programs or nicknames for suspected programs turn up on such sites with enough abundance to satisfy any Tom Clancy junkie.

Black Manta. Blind Buzzard. Senior Citizen. Gaspipe. All join the list of the great "maybe, babys" lined up next to Aurora on the black world runways that pipe aircraft along on their paces from Edwards Air Force Base to other facilities in the southwestern United States, particularly the still unacknowledged air base at Area 51 in Nevada.

Publications including the International Defense Review journal and Aviation Week & Space Technology cite Area 51 as essentially an extension of test operations at Edwards.

Such reports cannot be admitted by an Air Force command authority that still does not officially acknowledge existence of a base at the area described as Area 51, also known as "The Ranch."

More to the point, those in the know, those with access to Special Access Programs, assert that it is inappropriate to discuss or report about the topic.

An anonymous caller to the Valley Press said, "Security is a joke now. That is not the way it used to be. Many people in this Valley have done work at the Ranch, and have never spoken about it. There is nothing funny about it."

> "It's more fun to run in the black, where no one knows what you are doing ... and you can bury your mistakes...."
>
> **John Pike, Washington, D.C.-based Federation of American Scientists**

The case for security that denies knowledge of programs, technol-

(continued on page 4)

who lifted the veil of black secrecy for an announcement of the development of stealth technology aircraft.

"There certainly is a historical precedent, in a close election where you have a Democrat with Republicans snapping at their heels," aviation writer Bill Sweetman said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

Sweetman is author of seminal open source works on secret aircraft programs, including "Stealth Aircraft — Secrets of Future Airpower."

Stealth unveiled

Sweetman recounted how the announcement of the existence of stealth by the Carter administration backfired politically, with Reagan forces accusing the Democrats of revealing precious secrets to make political hay.

"The Reagan team did that very well to Carter What political advantage could you gain by unveiling (now) without it backfiring?" Sweetman said. He speculated the current administration could decide that a technology or aircraft is mature enough to place into operational command, so it could be unveiled the way former President George Bush decided to when he brought the F-117 stealth fighter out of the black more than a decade ago.

Another defense watcher remained skeptical about an election year unveiling.

"I've been waiting for a plane to come out of the black for 10 years," said John Pike of the Washington, D.C.-based Federation of American Scientists. "I am still waiting. I will believe it when I see it."

Pike attributes his logic to deduction rather than inside sources. But he said he doesn't believe any classified aircraft program has created secret planes in sufficient numbers to deploy in squadron strength, like the F-117 fleet at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

"There may be some onesies and twosies out there," Pike said. "As for an operational deployment ... I just don't believe it."

Black plane watchers seeking the Holy Grail of secret aircraft still pine for a "white world" view of a mysterious aircraft popularly known as Aurora, which has mutated from a Defense Department line item notation to a myth.

(continued from page 3 - ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Oct. 19, 2000)

ogies or tactics to foreign powers is valid, defense analyst Pike noted, even though his own organization, the Federation of American Scientists, pushes for more open program scrutiny.

"It's more fun to run in the black, where no one knows what you are doing ... and you can bury your mistakes," Pike observed.

Certainly, the history of black programs has a distinguished record of secret victories and achievements in addition to the potential for concealing spending and program failures.

But there are failures. A 1995 congressional report noted that part of the failure of the Navy's A-12 stealth carrier aircraft could be attributed to program over-compartmentalization of secrets about stealth technologies that never got shared with the teams working on the Navy plane.

Finally, sightings of inexplicable airborne phenomena can trigger fears, worry or anxiety about government cover-ups, and contribute to the questions people have of the government regarding reports about UFOs.

Stealth blimps?

Sightings by numerous witnesses have ranged in recent years from a Valley community like Rosamond just west of Edwards to the sightings shown on CNN of triangular lighted formations moving at eerily slow speeds over the environs of Phoenix.

Aviation writers including Jim Wilson of Popular Mechanics, Sweetman, Pike and others speculate the government is flying non-rigid airships that may be used for battlefield information or cruise missile defense – phased array radar platforms mounted in football-field size aircraft.

The big blimp, one writer called it.

"Blimps are very likely," Sweetman said. "They make a lot of sense. There's nothing better to put a big antenna in. And it would be one of the quickest and easiest ways to detect small targets."

Wilson recounted in a Popular Mechanics article published in 1999 that "optical stealth" could provide a kind of starlit emulation for cloaking a large aircraft. In the International Defense Review journal, Sweetman also recounted, "visual stealth measures were part of the original Have Blue program."

Some lax security, particularly the apparent leakage of nuclear weapons technology to China from the Los Alamos National Laboratories, can have strategic consequences, potentially harmful to the security of the United States, but can media reports derived from open source materials affect program security?

A writer for a respected trade industry publication noted that the Air Force specifically, and the Defense Department in general, have a history of keeping the lid wrapped effectively since the days of the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb.

Sweetman's body of work over more than a dozen books and hundreds of articles is both full of praise and insightful critical analysis of defense project security.

"It is a safe bet that foreign intelligence agencies know more than the Valley Press, if only because they have more time to look," Sweetman said.

Concluding his Defense Review Article, Sweetman observed, "If nothing else, the dearth of hard information shows that the (black) system – expensive, unwieldy and sometimes irrational as it might seem – keeps its secrets well."

FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT - Sept. 9, 2000

Vermont man logs UFO sightings in the state



Free Press photo illustration

As the state director for Mutual UFO Network of Vermont, Tom McFarland of Lyndonville keeps his eyes on the sky and his ears open to Vermonters who wish to report unidentified objects.

What's that in the sky?

By Erica Jacobson
Free Press Staff Writer

LYNDONVILLE

Tom McFarland's satellite dish went on the blink one evening in July 1997.

Not just static, but the entire signal.

It was a strange enough outage that McFarland peered out of the window of his Lyndonville home to check the dish.

What he saw were landing lights coming directly at his home. The triangular craft floating nearby looked nothing like the military craft he'd seen refueling in the night skies above Lyndonville. The entire rear edge of the object emanated a pure, white light.

"All of a sudden," McFarland said, "I realized I wasn't looking at a plane."

This craft was what McFarland had scanned the skies for since childhood — here, hovering just off of his deck, was the almost unquestionable proof of life beyond this planet.

"I've always thought there was something out there," McFarland said. "Maybe not knew something was out there, but hoping."

So, who did McFarland tell first?

No one.

"I was just very overwhelmed," he said. "I didn't know what to do."

Now, McFarland is state director for Mutual UFO Network of Vermont, which is part of the national MUFON organization. The Vermont chapter is made up of about four members. McFarland has become the go-to man for anyone who's seen something they can't explain.

"Most people don't know who to call," McFarland said. "You don't want to call the cops because you're going to get picked on.

"We're just here for people to have a place to report."

How to report a sighting

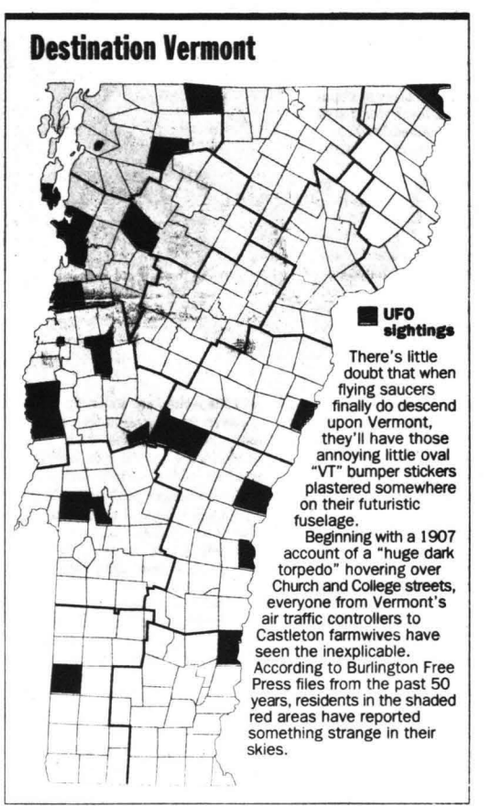
To report something strange in the sky, call the Mutual UFO Network of Vermont hot line at 626-9726 or the MUFON national hot line at (800) 836-2166.

Get a copy of MUFON Vermont's report form at www.vtsky.com/mufonvt/reptform.htm. Mail reports to MUFON/Vt, 1409 Cotton Road, Lyndonville, Vt. 05851.

The organization offers 10 things to remember during a UFO encounter at www.vtsky.com/mufonvt/10things.htm.

Calling in authorities

Decades ago, the police were the first place most people turned when something unusual showed up in the sky.



One night in April 1966, the St. Albans city attorney roused two patrolmen to investigate "two objects moving across the heavens."

In the mid-1980s, Richford Police Chief Homer Combs theorized UFOs were repeatedly drawn to the region around Richford and Fairfield because of some other-worldly technology that allowed them to refuel.

Police department phones don't ring like that anymore.

Kevin McLaughlin, Chittenden County Sheriff, said it's been at least 10 years since military operations over Lake Champlain last lit up the switchboards with reports of UFOs.

"The only other UFO sightings are when people call me up and say they saw one of our cars going 80 mph and what was he doing," said McLaughlin, a 27-year veteran of the sheriff's department.

These days, McLaughlin said if a report came, he'd likely be first in line to go check it out.

"If I knew about it, and it was within reason to get to it, I would go," Laughlin said. "I've always wanted to meet one."

Even author Joe Citro, Vermont's resident collector of far-out tales, hasn't had the pleasure of taking too many UFO reports. Someone occasionally comes up to him at one of his readings with a tale of aerial oddities, but Citro's more likely to get a call about a possible ghostly encounter.

If the urgency of reporting a potential spacecraft is gone, Citro said pop culture is probably to blame.

"Society has just gotten used to a real proliferation of information about UFOs," Citro said. "Maybe to some degree they might be getting to be business as usual."

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4 - FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT - Sept. 9, 2000)

Just the facts

McFarland is still his own strongest skeptic.

"For me to take on this role, it took a lot of soul searching," McFarland said, "because you get out there and people look at you funny."

He's reluctant to believe anything he reads on the Internet. Investigations of the handful of reports he receives a year often identify a UFO as a star. One couple refused to believe the bright and apparently moving light in fall and winter skies was actually the star Capella.

More common, though, are people who never follow up on their initial call to McFarland.

"They call in, and they're psyched out, and they're ready to go," McFarland said. "You ask them to write out a report, and you never hear from them again.

"Vermonters tend to be laid back about these kind' of things. 'Must be one of those flying saucers things, let's get back to milking.' "

But it's hard, even three years later, for McFarland to make a complete report of what he saw just outside of his house.

"I just can't sit down and draw it," he said. "I was just so overwhelmed by it. I wish I could go back to that night and do it again and do it right.

"Take a picture."

BROAD TOP BULLETIN, Saxton, PA - Oct. 24, 2000

Will Bush reveal secrets of UFOs, if elected president?

by Jon Baughman

One of the most unusual -- and least publicized -- things to come out of the election campaign, is a pledge by George W. Bush to tell the public the truth about UFOs.

Bush would not be the first presidential candidate to make that promise, but he might be the first to fulfill it. Jimmy Carter made that promise, but never managed to get the secret out. He was blocked by many levels of bureaucracy.

During his campaign, Carter pledged, "If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public, and the scientists. I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one..." - statement made in May, 1976.

On July 28, while campaigning in Arkansas, Bush reportedly made that promise, and the reputed text was carried on both CNN and "Nightline," and in *The Washington Post*.

However, there were errors in the news transcript. Thanks to Major George A. Filer (Retired) I have obtained a transcript of the conversation. Filer publishes on the Web a weekly report on UFOs, called "Filer's Files." UFO reports can be sent to him via email at:

Majorstar@aol.com

It was Charles Huffer of the Mutual UFO Network who approached Gov. Bush in Arkansas, and released this transcript of the conversation:

Jonathan Karl, CNN Correspondent: "Along the way, someone thought Dick Cheney's impressive resume would help Bush tell the truth about UFOs."

Huffer: "Half the public believes that they are real. Would you finally tell us what the Hell is going on?"

Gov. Bush: "Sure, I will."

Cheney then walked over to Charles Huffer and extended his hand to him.

Huffer: "This man knows. He was Secretary of Defense."

Gov. Bush: "And was a great one."

Several minutes later Huffer again saw Bush in the Hall. Huffer recalls, "He recognized me immediately and unsolicited he said approximately the following."

Gov. Bush: "It will be the first thing he (pointing to Cheney) will do. He'll get right on it."

Huffer: "Will, will you really?"

Gov. Bush: "Yes, sir."

Huffer says he has this exchange on audio tape. Part of the conversation has also been posted on websites, which may still be available.

Two are::

http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0007/29/smn.01.html

http://abcnews.go.com/onair/nightline/transcripts/n1000728_trans.html

Highly respected US Senator Barry Goldwater, who ran for President unsuccessfully against Lyndon Johnson, also wanted to get to the bottom of the truth about UFOs.

On one occasion, when Goldwater was Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, he visited Wright - Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio hoping to get permission from General Curtis LeMay to examine the UFO information stored there, but permission was not granted.

In a 1975 letter to a friend, Goldwater writes, "The subject of UFOs is one that has interested me for some long time. About ten or twelve years ago I made an effort to find out what was in the building at Wright - Patterson Air Force Base where the information is stored that has been collected by the Air Force, and I was understandable denied this request. It is still classified Above Top Secret."

Another letter Goldwater wrote in 1979 said, in part, "It is true that I was denied access to a facility at Wright - Patterson. Because I never got in, I can't tell you what was inside. We both know about the rumors."

Reportedly the room Goldwater was mentioning is called "The Blue Room" which contains UFO artifacts but no spacecraft or alien bodies.

Former President Gerald Ford, while serving as a Congressman from Michigan, made this statement in a letter to L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, "In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena. I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFOs and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject." -- March 28, 1966.

If George W. Bush is elected President, and if he and Cheney are able to reveal to the public the truth about UFOs, it will be a "first" in the history of the United States. The whole UFO investigation is classified "Above Top Secret," even higher than the Manhattan Project was (development of the first atom bomb) so the odds are against it. We shall see.

POST, Denver, CO - Nov. 12, 2000 CR: C. Carpenter

UFO Network opens its doors in Ken Caryl mall

By Kieran Nicholson
Denver Post Staff Writer

The search for UFOs now leads to a strip mall in the Ken Caryl area.

The Mutual UFO Network, which claims 4,000 members worldwide, is located between a liquor store and an optometrist, across the parking lot from a bar and grill.

John Schuessler, the international director of the network, which investigates reports of sightings or contacts with unidentified flying objects, says he feels right at home.

"I'm surprised at how cordial everyone is," Schuessler said. "I didn't expect this kind of reception."

1 'Book' closes, 1 opens

MUFON, a nonprofit corporation, moved into its new digs on Oct. 29, relocating from Seguin, Texas, located east of San Antonio.

The office in the Market Place at Ken Caryl, which is just off Kipling Parkway and Chatfield Avenue, is filled with books, magazines and reports on UFOs and aliens.

Among Schuessler's collection are items sent to the network by people who claim to have seen or been contacted by aliens. A miniature flying saucer flashes red lights.

Also on display is a small "alien" pickled in a jar filled with lime-green liquid.

"We enjoy it, too," Schuessler said. "You have to live in the real world, and the real world has fun as well as the serious side."

The network was formed in 1969 after the Air Force closed its project "Blue Book," which investigated UFO reports, said Schuessler, who was among MUFON's founding members.

"There was nowhere to report, and UFO sightings sure continued, so we filled the gap," Schuessler said.

The recent move, however, was not prompted by Colorado's status as a hotbed for sightings. The San Luis Valley generates a number of UFO reports, and a few decades ago, there were widely reported accounts of cattle mutilations by aliens on the state's Eastern Plains.

Schuessler and his wife, Kathy, moved to the area to be near their daughter's family, including two new grandchildren, and the organization moved with them.

Denver's weather, of course, is a plus. "We had enough of the heat, humidity and bugs," Schuessler said.

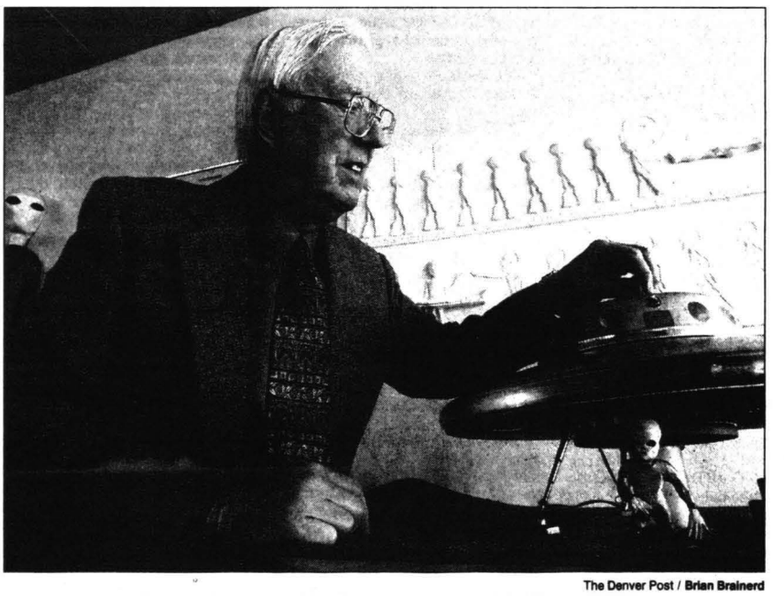
From 1962 until 1998, when he retired, Schuessler worked as an engineer with aerospace firms, including a stint at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston on the Mercury space program, he said.

Reports from all over

Schuessler said his organization regularly receives UFO reports from around the world, either by telephone, e-mail or on its Web site, www.mufon.com.

"If we get a report and someone says, 'I saw something go across the sky, and it took 20 seconds,' we can't do anything about that. We don't know what it was," said Schuessler.

But MUFON will record the information and file it, he said. Perhaps there will be similar reports from the same area, and patterns could begin to emerge.



The Denver Post / Brian Brainerd

John Schuessler shows off a model UFO at the headquarters of the Mutual UFO Network.

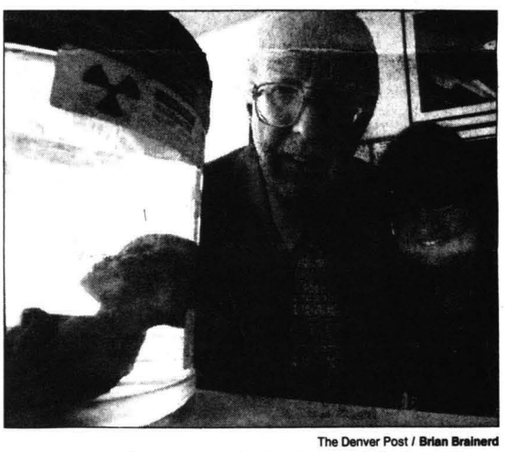
"We're in the business of collecting data," he said.

But when the network, which has members and field offices in every state and several foreign countries, receives what it believes to be valid reports of UFO contacts or abductions, it sends investigators to the scene.

Schuessler said some people who report "close encounters" — of which the network has investigated hundreds over the past three decades — bear physical abnormalities to support such claims, such as burned skin and injured eyes from exposure to the alleged UFO.

"It tells us there are things that are physically real that affect the environment and affect people that we can't explain," he said.

"I call them unconventional flying objects. They do exist. Not necessarily extraterrestrial, but I won't rule that out."



The Denver Post / Brian Brainerd

John and Kathy Schuessler look at what some claim is an alien at Mutual UFO Network's offices. John is director of the network, which investigates reports of unidentified flying objects.

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Oct. 21, 2000 CR: B. Hamilton

UFOs: Black planes or aliens?

Did Kelly Johnson believe in UFOs?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The sixth installment in a weeklong series.

William F. Wu has a doctoral degree in American culture and is the author of 13 science fiction and fantasy novels and nearly 60 science fiction and fantasy short stories.

By WILLIAM F. WU
Valley Press Staff Writer

Aliens are taking over our minds.

Don't believe it?

Do you recognize the names Mr. Spock, Yoda, Quark or Neroon?

Can you picture Alf and Mork? Do you remember Uncle Martin?

Maybe your bell is rung by Zev, with her Cluster Lizard DNA.

Do you know the Kzin and the Dorsai?

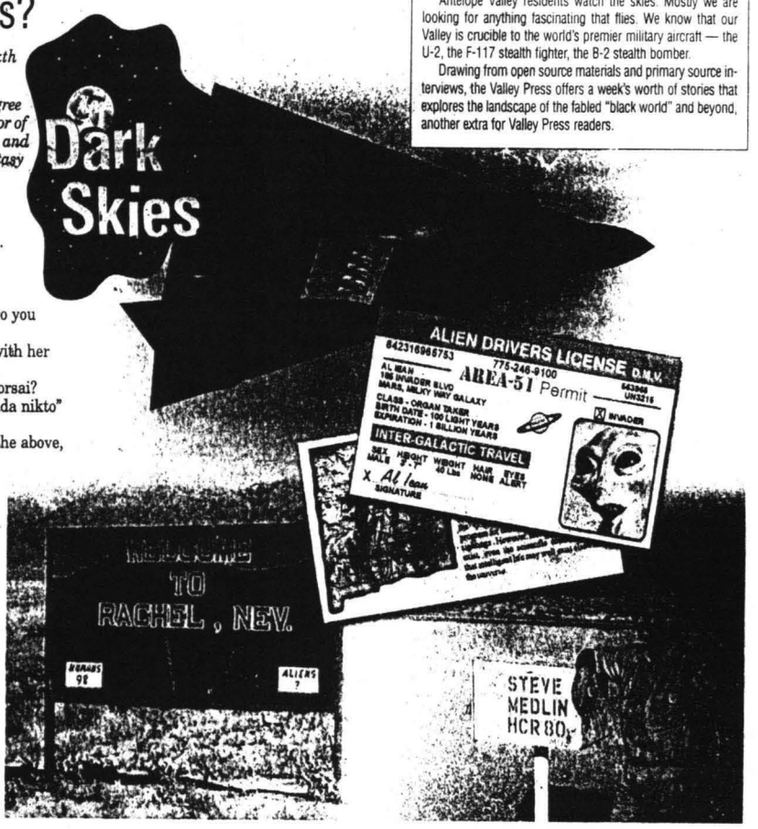
Have you ever said, "Klaatu barada nikto" to your boyfriend's robot?

If you've answered yes to any of the above, they're already in your head.

This issue is more than a joke. In the last half century, a major change has occurred in the minds of Americans, one with religious, political and military significance.

Whether we humans are alone or not in the universe as self-aware, technologically advanced beings goes to the heart of our self-image and to our expectations as our military and scientific ventures carry us farther into space.

Questions that naturally follow include: Are we alone made in God's image? Will we meet friends or enemies out there? And ultimately — have they been visiting us already?



Our Dark Skies series

Antelope Valley residents watch the skies. Mostly we are looking for anything fascinating that flies. We know that our Valley is crucible to the world's premier military aircraft — the U-2, the F-117 stealth fighter, the B-2 stealth bomber.

Drawing from open source materials and primary source interviews, the Valley Press offers a week's worth of stories that explores the landscape of the fabled "black world" and beyond, another extra for Valley Press readers.

As Rob Chilson, author of seven science fiction and fantasy novels ("Black as Blood," 1998) and more than 60 short stories, pointed out, "In the 1950s, most people didn't believe in 'spacemen,' as we called them then. Only people who were into science fiction even thought about aliens."

Chilson has seen the change. "Now if you ask ordinary people, most of them do think there are intelligent species out there."

"Of course they do," I added. "They see them every week on TV."

"And I think that the seeing is what led to the acceptance," Chilson said. "Having the image in their minds, they feel — not think — 'why not?' "

Yet the 20th-century vision of extraterrestrial "intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic," in the words of H.G. Wells, begins with his novel, "War of the Worlds," first published in 1898.

In the decades immediately following, consideration of alien species was largely confined to science fiction pulp magazines, considered by most people to be unworthy of serious regard.

Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers met aliens in the comic strips and matinee serials, two equally unrespected forms of entertainment.

The public in general had so little awareness of Wells' novel that in 1938, Orson Welles' radio adaptation of "War of the Worlds" caused a panic in the northeastern United States when listeners thought Martians were really invading Earth.

Approaching mid-century, people's view of their surroundings began to change. With the coming of the atomic age in 1945 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, many people recognized that some of science's so-called "knowledge," such as the atom being unbreakable, could not be trusted, after all.

Then something happened at Roswell, N.M.

Edwards, Skunk Works

The event at Roswell occurred about 11:30 p.m. on Friday, July 4, 1947.

The nature of that event remains a subject of debate, speculation and research. The acronym UFO moved decades ago from technical jargon to everyday language; it stands for "unidentified flying object," but in common use it often came to mean an alien spacecraft.

A Valley resident named William Hamilton was interviewed by the Valley Press in 1993 about his study of UFOs. His interest started long before with a book called "Flying Saucers From Outer Space," written by retired Marine Corps Maj. Donald Keyhoe, who first went public with his claims of Air Force cover-ups of UFOs in 1958.

Eventually, Hamilton wrote a book of his own, "Cosmic Top Secret," with a new edition just out, about UFO studies from around the world up to the early 1990s.

Hamilton recounted in 1993 a longstanding Valley tale that in February 1954, five flying saucers landed at Edwards Air Force Base and the base was closed for 3 ½ days. According to this lore, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was flown to the base for the alien visit.

"It's all speculation, but a Lancaster man says he worked there for Northrop and the events are authentic," Hamilton said.

According to Edwards base historian Dr. Jim Young, "The rumor's been circulating for many years."

However, the record merely shows president-elect Eisenhower making a midnight stop at Edwards in late 1952 for refueling and a short briefing on his way back from Korea during the Korean War.

Meanwhile, also starting in the 1950s, two men who figured prominently in the field of black world aerospace by running Lockheed's Skunk Works in Palmdale, Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson and Ben Rich, had clear opinions about alien spacecraft.

A background note will place their comments in perspective: Area 51 is the legendary secret base just north of Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. It was established by Johnson in 1955 for secret Lockheed flight tests of the U-2 spy plane. Rumors in years since have placed alien spacecraft there.

The Palmdale facility and Area 51 have maintained their association.

Lockheed Martin, of course, has many different projects under way at a given time; some current projects are its test version of the joint strike fighter, the X-35; the F-22 Raptor air-to-air superiority fighter being tested over Edwards; and the X-33 prototype for VentureStar, a proposed replacement for the NASA space shuttle.

As David Darlington recounts in his book "Area 51, The Dreamland Chronicles — The Legend of America's Most Secret Military Base," John Andrews, the model designer for Testor Corp. who came out with the first replica of the F-117 stealth fighter, once wrote to Rich for his opinion on UFOs.

" *'I am a believer,'* Rich had responded, 'and *so is Kelly Johnson.'* When Andrews asked for clarification — e.g., was Rich referring to man-made or extraterrestrial UFOs? — Rich replied: *'I'm a believer in both categories. I feel everything is possible. Many of our man-made UFO's are Un Funded Opportunities. In both categories, there are a lot of kooks and charlatans — be cautious.'* "

Darlington also quotes aviation writer Jim Goodall: "Ben Rich told me twice before he died: 'We have things at Area 51 that you and the best minds in the world won't even be able to conceive that we have for 30 or 40 years, and won't be made public for another 50.' "

Yet neither Johnson nor Rich elaborated. Johnson died Dec. 21, 1990; Rich died Jan. 5, 1995, both men taking any factual knowledge for their opinions with them.

Some people now working at the Plant 42 facility, currently called Lockheed Aeronautics Co., and formerly known as the Skunk Works, share a differing opinion. All requested their names not be used.

"I don't think they have UFOs from Zeta Reticuli," said one, referring to Area 51. "I can't believe there was a UFO crash at Roswell. It's very hard to keep a secret for that long a time."

Yet secrecy is an inherent part of the aerospace field, as always. "Even within the company, they don't talk about projects," a Lockheed employee explained. "If you see something and say, 'What's that?' people answer, 'I can't talk about it.' "

One worker did observe evidence of the ongoing link between the Palmdale facility and the black world base: "We have badges, a separate badge for every project you're on. Outside the building, I happened to see a guy with a couple of badges. One, all it had on it was 'Area 51.' " Laughing, the worker added, "I decided it was not a good time to go up and ask questions."

Yet the subject of misinterpreting evidence also came up. Referring to Lockheed's radar cross section facilities at Helendale, north of Victorville, a Palmdale Lockheed worker said at one time, radar was to be tested on a "deltoid thing," maybe a model for the Aurora, an aircraft that has been rumored to exist but has not been acknowledged by the Air Force. "They used a disk for calibration. Later, they saw witnesses; a month or two after that, it was in UFO magazines as a flying saucer."

What about Area 51 and the rumors of alien spacecraft there?

"They don't have to have spacecraft to want to keep it secret," a Lockheed employee pointed out. "Here's what I think is most likely. One, aircraft from adversaries. It's highly likely that they don't want anyone to know they have Russian and Chinese aircraft, especially if they acquired them through questionable means. They're probably testing them against U.S. planes and systems, maybe even doing live fire.

"Second, aircraft of ours that are secret or older aircraft with modifications. Third, upcoming aircraft like the JSF or something totally unacknowledged."

Does this skepticism regarding aliens stretch to Roswell, also?

"I think something happened there," one of the Lockheed Aeronautics workers said, clearly speculating. "An accident involving a live nuclear weapon. Roswell was the only base in the country with nuclear weapons at that time. A (bomber) could have had a midair (collision) with an escort fighter; the Air Force has to go pick it up. It would be absolutely black. ... The story of flying saucers so sensationalizes the event, it draws all attention away from losing a nuclear weapon."

Aerospace workers understandably think in aerospace terms. The rest of us lack the advantage of inside knowledge, even to use merely in the service of speculation. When I lived in El Mirage during the 1990s, I had my own sighting of a flying object I could not identify.

A mirage in El Mirage?

Long after dark on a mild evening in the mid-'90s, I sat at my computer with my two dogs sleeping nearby. I heard a distant rumble and thought nothing of it; big rigs often sounded like that as they passed on the paved road, about a quarter mile from where I lived.

Instead of quickly fading, however, the rumble grew louder. Now I figured it was one of the helicopters that occasionally passed overhead with county markings.

It didn't sound like a helicopter.

Then my house — admittedly not the sturdiest of buildings — began to vibrate. Both dogs leaped up, barking, and ran to the front door.

I still expected the noise to pass, but it didn't, and the cabinet doors began to rattle in the kitchen.

Leaving my desk with some reluctance, I walked to the front door to let the dogs bark outside. By the time I opened the door, the entire house was shaking — not just vibrating, but shaking — from a loud, low rumble I could feel in my chest.

The dogs raced down the front steps, barking furiously to protect us from attack.

On the front step, I looked up and found lights suggesting a large triangular shape, shockingly low. While I knew lights in the night sky had no reference point, and so no visual estimate of distance could be meaningful, the vibrations told me the craft was as low as it appeared.

I walked down the front steps, but the craft was making a very slow turn, so that in moments it was hidden from view by the house itself.

By the time I had moved out into the yard, the vibrating rumble had passed and the lights were gone.

The dogs stopped barking and wagged their tails with pride in having chased the intruder away.

Neither lights nor sound nor sensation remained.

Do I think it was an alien spacecraft? No. I believe it was one of the black world aircraft being tested over the Mojave Desert.

Some rumors of the Aurora have reported a deep, chest-resonating vibration that people feel as much as hear; the "deltoid thing" mentioned by a Lockheed worker had the same shape as what I saw.

While some years would pass before I reached the edge of Area 51, my personal sighting of an unidentified object in the sky raised my interest in seeing the perimeter of the black world base.

At the Area 51 perimeter

I journeyed to Rachel, Nev., with Valley Press editor Dennis Anderson and Daniel Carnahan, an experienced visitor to the Area 51 perimeter. We stopped at the Little A'Le'Inn, owned by Pat and Joe Travis, just off state Highway 375, designated by the governor of Nevada as "The Extraterrestrial Highway." We bought souvenirs, including caps, patches, pins and "alien drivers licenses."

Later, I was at the wheel as we drove past the big mailbox of rancher Steve Medlin on our way to the perimeter of Area 51 — where we found ourselves looking at an unmarked white Jeep Cherokee that came down a bluff a short distance away and stopped, facing us, right behind the warning sign that said, "Deadly force authorized."

We did not test their authorization.

Instead, we drove back a short distance and camped on public land for the night. After dark, with a campfire for warmth, we took turns resting in our tents, always with someone awake to look upward.

We did not see mysterious craft of any kind that night.

Even so, as I watched the sky over the legendary "non-existent" base in the chilly air, surrounded by sprawling, apparently empty desert, I mused not only about Area 51

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6 - ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Oct. 21, 2000)

but about the larger questions surrounding UFOs, black world aerospace, aliens and the stars scattered above us.

I realized that as a science fiction writer, I would have little or no credibility with skeptics even if I did see an extraterrestrial craft or visitor. Any such claim I might make would be called a publicity stunt.

Also, I knew that while national security is a genuine issue, not very far from where I stood, a very large number of American tax dollars had been spent in complete secrecy from American taxpayers. I questioned the lack of accountability in the black world budget. After all, revealing expenditures per se is not the equivalent of releasing aircraft specifications.

I imagined, with a deep curiosity, the mysterious new technologies that might be housed and tested just beyond the bluffs near me. I had read and heard speculation about the big blimp, Phoenix lights, experiments in ball plasma, a new switch-wing fighter, and of course the Strategic Defense Initiative, more commonly called the Star Wars antimissile defense. Even the thought of being near some of them was exciting, despite the silence in the desert that night.

I had a more immediate concern as well: whether the "cammo dudes," as the Area 51 guards are often called, might choose to visit our campsite at any moment. As an American of Chinese descent, born and raised in the Midwest, I wondered if the cammo dudes would regard my ethnic ancestry as grounds for treatment harsher than my white companions might receive. In any case, they did not confront us.

As I looked up from the desert sand by the flickering campfire to the stars, I shared an experience that stretched back through time with every human society ever on the planet Earth — marveling and wondering at the lights in the sky.

Coming in the final installment of Dark Skies: Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) coordinator for the Planetary Society; a French military report on UFOs; and a Roswell researcher who believes the object that crashed there was extraterrestrial.

JOURNAL, Providence, RI - Oct. 15, 2000

Are there UFOs in Rhode Island? Tune in each month to find out

■ Members of the state chapter of the Mutual UFO Network meet monthly to discuss possible sightings.

By S. ROBERT CHIAPPINELLI
Journal Staff Writer

CRANSTON — They meet in a basement, but their minds are often in the stars.

They are members of the Rhode Island chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, known as MUFON, a national organization established in 1967 for the scientific investigation of aerial phenomena.

The local group assembles monthly at the Oak Lawn Grange, with its homey pine walls and window curtains gathered at the bottom to admit air on warm days.

"You may come to the meeting and think you're going to see people who are odd," said Bill Masuck, of Pawtucket. "I'm a high school teacher, physics and calculus. Most of the people who are members here are professionals."

Masuck, a Blackstone-Millville Regional High School teacher, has been interested in unidentified flying objects for about 35 years, or ever since he read a condensed version of Frank Edwards's *Flying Saucers — Serious Business*.

"You didn't want to bring up UFOs 30 years ago," Masuck said.

He is now the local chapter's chief investigator, toting a camcorder and other equipment with him in hopes that he will someday see a UFO. None so far, though, and he often has to puncture the hopes of reporting viewers.

Masuck has trained as a field investigator and follows an extensive investigative procedure dictated by the national organization.

When he gets a report, he scans newspapers and calls local airports. Once he discovered a small circus was in town at the time of a sighting and that balloons it released resembled a UFO. Blimps and unusual activity or lighting at an airport sometimes fool people as well.

He may check a star and celestial-body chart, meteor-shower schedules, unusual weather conditions and satellite orbits and ask himself whether what the witness or witnesses are saying adds up.

"Eighty percent of sightings are explainable," Dave Rubien, director of the statewide organization, said. "About 20 percent we can't explain."

Rubien, a retired construction engineer who spends six months a year in Florida, says that you have to approach the subject skeptically.

"I have to have at least four or five people, unrelated individuals, telling me the same thing," he said.

But he has heard enough similar accounts from credible witnesses to believe that extraordinary things have occurred. "Sometimes," he said, "you have to say, 'Well, geez, what else could it be?' "

Many reports MUFON gets are hoaxes, said Janet Bucci, assistant director, but every month or two the local organization gets a report worth pursuing. Sometimes MUFON can't provide an explanation for a sighting.

IN THE LAST several years, there have been reports from more than a dozen communities, ranging from Providence to Charlestown to Woonsocket. They recount bright lights that suddenly disappear and craft shaped like a cigar, a V or a circle with propulsion units and rectangular red lights.

The organization meets on the third Friday of the month and frequently schedules speakers. Joan d'Arc, author of *Space Travelers and the Genesis of the Human Form* and copublisher of Paranoia, The Conspiracy Reader magazine, is scheduled this Friday, and on Nov. 17, Robert Schoch, author of *Voices of the Rocks* and Boston University professor of geology and sciences, will speak about redating the Great Sphinx pyramids.

MUFON charges $5 admission when it has a speaker and $3 otherwise.

The most recent gathering numbered about a dozen, a disappointingly small turnout to some members of one of New England's most active chapters.

Dave Downs, an elementary school teacher from Attleboro, described an experience that he said could easily have led to misconceptions.

In the early 1970s, he became fascinated with "Big Foot" reports that cut across geographical and cultural lines so he began checking out sightings when he could. He related one scary moment when he was investigating a reported Big Foot print beneath a railroad trestle somewhere in Maryland.

Suddenly, he heard heavy footsteps on the trestle above and a shadow larger than any man's darkened the earth beside him.

Downs had promised himself that if he ever encountered Big Foot he would film every last second, even if the creature killed him. But, he said, that day he froze, fearful that the least sound from his equipment might turn the fearsome creature on him. But he resisted the impulse to run.

After a time, he realized his mistake: two men, not Bigfoot, were walking the rails and casting that formidable shadow.

"If I'd run away that day, I'd be telling people that I saw the shadow of Big Foot," he said.

Paul Formisano, of Swansea, noted that thousands of radio waves exist in the room where the discussion took place, but we can't perceive them without the proper receiver, for example, a radio.

Formisano, a mechanical engineer, discounted all talk of UFOs well into his 20s, then heard a convincing college lecture about a half-dozen years ago that piqued his interest. "Most of it turns out to be nothing," he said, "but it's fascinating."

And if there are extraterrestrials, he said, they may have a technology so far ahead of us that it's hard for us to conceive.

When he told a colleague of a report of a light crossing the sky then stopping and heading off at a 90-degree angle, the man said that the government often reassigns satellite orbits and that might explain that phenomenon.

Dave Downs discounted that explanation, though, saying that the orbital changes are gradual and would not be that abrupt or noticeable.

Formisano attended the meeting with Kristen Cabral, of New Bedford, a fellow member of the Astronomy Society of Southern New England. She became interested in astronomy in the sixth grade and was happy to find a place where people could discuss unusual astral events without being hooted down.

AT THAT RECENT session, three hours flew by at warp speed as members mulled regular UFO topics and more.

Are there rods, tiny, lightning-fast creatures whose movement can only be captured on modern sophisticated film? Or are those unexplained lines on the picture frames simply imperfections of the film?

If extraterrestrials are so vastly superior that they can travel across the universe from their world to ours, why don't they identify themselves to us or take us over?

Janet Bucci said there often is an imbalance. Humans' spiritual side is said to be not as well developed as the intellectual side, she said, and a similar imbalance might be preventing aliens from establishing contact or domination.

And so the night went: intriguing discussion, unanswered questions and reasons to return again next month.

TRIBUNE, LaCrosse, WI - May 28, 2000 CR: R. Heiden

"When we pushed (the witness), he finally shouted that it was not a weather ballon, that it was something he'd never seen in his life.



— Author Don Schmitt

Is the truth out there?

Author bases his claim of bodies at Roswell on 300-plus interviews

By **JOAN KENT**
Of the Tribune staff

Outside, a banner with an alien beckoned passersby with an intriguing message — "Roswell: Proof of Bodies Recovered."

Up a narrow flight of stairs, about 50 people gathered in the Odin Gallery, 507 Main St., on Saturday to hear author Don Schmitt describe his research, which he said has led him to believe bodies — perhaps not from this planet — were found at the site of what some claim was the crash of an unidentified flying object on a ranch outside Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

Schmitt, author of "UFO Crash at Roswell," the basis for the movie "Roswell," said he and partner Thomas Carey have tracked down more than 300 people in their effort to learn what really happened in Roswell.

They have pushed for a Congressional inquiry. The federal government has switched its story several times, Schmitt said, at one time listing the bodies as wooden crash dummies. Initially, the government said the crashed vehicle was a flying saucer, he said, but that statement was immediately retracted to say it was a weather balloon.

"We thought we could wrap this up in one weekend, and come away with an explanation to support the government," said Schmitt, who was director of special investigations at the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. "But then we spoke to our first witness. When we pushed him, he finally shouted that it was not a weather balloon, that it was something he'd never seen in his life."

That witness was the son of rancher Mack Brazel, who discovered the debris field. He said the material included silken fabric that functioned as fiber optics, a paper-thin material that smoothed out no matter what his father did with it, and scraps of metal with symbols on it.

When Brazel's son reported two years later that rains had washed enough of the materials to the surface for him to fill a cigar box, an Air Force officer came to his home and told him he had to turn it over and should never speak of it, Schmitt said.

Other witnesses said a large piece of a disk-shaped craft was found a few miles from the debris field; it is believed to be where the bodies were found. Witnesses described them as thin humanoid bodies with large heads. One witness said they were about 4 feet tall with slanted eyes, yellow skin and large heads.

A St. Petersburg, Fla., nurse interviewed by the researchers said a patient of hers, on her deathbed, told of how as a young girl she and others were rock-hunting near Roswell when they came across a round object and blankets on the ground. When they pulled back the blankets, the woman said they saw small people with big eyes, wearing clothes of a shiny material.

The nurse said the woman told her she must never tell anyone because "the government can always find you."

One of the most dramatic interviews was with a man who he said was a Roswell mortician when the crash occurred. He said he received several calls from the Air Force hospital after the incident, asking how to treat bodies that had been burned or out in the elements, and how to preserve them without destroying anything such as their blood.

When he went to the hospital, he said Air Force officers told him he should not say anything or "someone would be picking my bones out of the sand."

"I've been checking out UFOs since the early '60s," said Jerry Bonsak of Onalaska, one of the people attending the lecture. "There is enough information that says there could have been bodies (at Roswell), and the government has been known to cover up things big-time."

Michael Welch, another member of the audience, said he is old enough to remember the "UFO craze of the '50s and '60s."

"I came to see if it's still as intriguing and as frightening to me as it was when I was a child," he said. "In the (communist) hysteria of the '50s, there was this displacement of fear of Russia ... to people from outer space."

"I just thought it would be intriguing," said Sandy Herold. "It's the kind of intellectual stimulation that the La Crosse area needs more of. I believe in exploring all the possibilities."

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Dec. 7, 2000

Alien contacts to be revealed in lecture at UFO Museum

The International UFO Museum and Research Center present's Dan Sherman with "Project Preserve Destiny, Insider Account of Alien Contact & Government Cover-up" at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Sherman spent almost three years as an intuitive communicator while serving in the United States Air Force. In his book, "Above Black," he tells of his training and things he learned from his alien contacts. These events led him to seek a discharge from the USAF at all costs.

During the 2½ years Sherman spent on Project Preserve Destiny, he claims to have officially communicated with two separate alien entities. The author's military record confirms he has held many of our nation's top security clearances.

Serving over 12 years in the United States Air Force, Sherman has been recognized for heroism and has been decorated with the AF Commendation Medal and the AF Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. at the UFO Museum, 114 N. Main St., and the lecture is free to the public, although donations are accepted.

CR: G. Fawcett

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, CA - Oct. 22, 2000 CR: B. Hamilton

To walk among the stars

Search for life beyond Earth cause for sense of wonder



Editor's Note: This second of two parts concludes a weeklong series on black world projects and UFOs. Valley Press writer William F. Wu has a doctoral degree in American culture and is author of numerous science fiction and fantasy novels. His work has been nominated for the prestigious Hugo award and one of his stories, "Wong's Lost and Found Emporium," was produced as a 1980s Twilight Zone anthology TV episode.

By WILLIAM F. WU
Valley Press Staff Writer

PALMDALE — Some people search the night skies for UFOs. They range from the credulous to the skeptical. Real scientists, along with the merely curious, search the heavens for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

In Saturday's edition, the previous installment of Dark Skies began a review of lore and attitudes regarding the overlap between black world aerospace and UFO sightings. Today's installment concludes Dark Skies with an account of professional research into these subjects.

Tom McDonough, SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) coordinator for the Planetary Society, also has the title of senior scientist of the Skeptics Society.

A thoughtful, articulate man who has often been interviewed regarding the possibilities of intelligent alien life for televised documentaries, McDonough is the author of the science fiction novel, "The Architects of Hyperspace" (iUniverse.com).

McDonough said the missions of both organizations have a bearing on the subject of the potential for life outside Earth.

He explained that the Planetary Society was founded in 1981 to support the exploration of Mars and the rest of the solar system.

Its range has expanded; throughout the years, the society has funded the work of researchers such as Paul Horowitz, who studied radio signals from space in search of signs of intelligent life, and Charles Townes, Nobel prize-winning inventor of the laser, who conducted searches for pulsating light as evidence of extra-terrestrial life.

McDonough went on to describe the Skeptics Society as "a group of scholars, scientists, magicians and ordinary people who analyze claims about UFOs, psychic phenomena, creationism and other controversial ideas, publishing results in a magazine, The Skeptic."

McDonough said the scientific basis for believing life exists beyond Earth begins with a comparison of life on Earth with conditions throughout the universe.

"We don't find anything rare in forming life on Earth. ... No rare elements are involved. The substances are very common."

He added there are grounds for debate about how common other conditions regarding Earth are, such as Jupiter helping to protect Earth from comets by its size and location, lessening the chance of collisions cataclysmic enough to destroy all life on our planet.

McDonough pointed out that while life elsewhere in the universe seems likely based on the example of Earth, whether life will develop intelligence remains a question and "makes it worth looking."

He explained that a way to approach this question, known as the Drake Equation, was formulated in 1960 by Frank Drake, a scientist working with Project Ozma to find newly formed stars with a radio telescope.

The Drake Equation breaks down the big question of whether intelligent life exists elsewhere into a series of smaller questions, including how many stars have planets; how many planets have an orbit in the habitable zone (neither too hot nor too cold); how many planets with life might have intelligent life; and how long is a civilization detectable through space?

"We have evidence for several hundred billion stars similar to the sun," McDonough said. "We've found several dozen planets at nearby stars, though they have lousy orbits (to support life)."

This evidence suggests more distant stars also have planets. "Planet formation seems confirmed. Planets are just the debris left over when a star is formed."

McDonough remained a skeptic, however, about the Roswell event - the keystone incident in which UFO advocates believe the Army covered up the crash of an extra-terrestrial craft.

McDonough likes the Air Force version, once known as Project Mogul.

"It looks like there was a secret experiment near Roswell with a balloon intended to listen to acoustic waves from Russian explosions. ... They had used tape — already available — to bind stuff, that had a design on it. This gave rise to (reports of) an alien language.

"First it was called a weather balloon. This seems to have been mixed up with another event, an experiment where balloons dropped mannequins to see how they fell."

This, McDonough believes, caused witnesses to think they had seen alien bodies.

"There's nothing convincing to me about aliens visiting. ... I actually take it seriously. It's possible we've been visited in history. I don't know anyone in the SETI community who believes in UFOs."

McDonough added that when he's invited to participate in a panel discussion on UFOs, he's being asked to join as a skeptic in order to balance the claims of those who believe aliens have visited Earth. For that reason, he rarely has a chance to explain that he is open to the subject of alien visitation.

Some in the UFO community "accuse me of being close-minded. I'm glad people are looking into it. I find historical reports especially interesting. But they all have other explanations."

He has a blunt view of reports that aliens have abducted humans: "I find it unconvincing. No one has brought back a piece of technology. There are metals that only mix in space. I look for hard evidence and don't find it."

What about the rumors of alien spacecraft at Area 51?

"A case of a secret area where the military has secret stuff, weird-looking stuff. The stealth fighter and bomber looked really weird (when secret). The military is interested in remote battlefield vehicles. They would make good UFO candidates."

Given McDonough's skepticism about aliens visiting Earth, in his opinion why have the stories fascinated the public so much?

"American culture has been especially receptive to UFO reports. Science fiction movies are so popular. America is the most future-oriented country in the world."

Soucoupe volante?

Granted, but of course America is not the only future-oriented country in the world.

In May, the Boston Globe reported on a new, approved English translation of a study by the French military, a 90-page report called, "UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?"

The study did not specify "soucoupes volantes," or flying saucers.

Based on a three-year study, officials including retired generals from the French Institute of Higher Studies of National Defense, a strategic planning agency, examined almost 500 international aeronautical sightings and radar or visual cases, including pilots' reports and data from other countries' air forces.

They concluded that about 5% cannot be easily attributed to earthly sources, including secret military exercises.

This 5%, compiled by French Air Force Gen. Bernard Norlain, appear "to be completely unknown flying machines with exceptional performances that are guided by a natural or artificial intelligence."

The credentials of the authors are impressive: Gen. Norlain, former commander of the French Tactical Air Force and military counselor to the prime minister; General Denis Letty, an air force fighter pilot; and André Lebeau, former head of the National Center for Space Studies, the French equivalent of NASA. Other contributors included a three-star admiral; the head of a government agency studying the subject; and scientists and weapons engineers.

With such respected authors and extensive data, the French report on UFOs is difficult to dismiss out of hand.

Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14 astronaut, was quoted saying, "People have been digging through the files and investigating for years now. The files are quite convincing."

The fact that a military group conducted this study is significant; the possibility of alien visitation has always, of course, carried the possibility of alien invasion.

For Americans, Hollywood has spread the question most effectively.

The movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still," starring Michael Rennie and Patricia Neal, appeared in 1951, a mere four years after the Roswell incident.

It was loosely based on a story published in a science fiction magazine, "Farewell to the Master," by Harry Bates. In the film, an alien visitor and his giant robot arrive on Earth in a huge disk-shaped spacecraft, with a stern message about peace.

In "Earth vs. the Flying Saucers" (1956), the alien visit has nothing to do with peace.

Both were precursors to films such as "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial" (1982) and "Independence Day" (1996).

Together, the two previously mentioned films early in the second half of the 20th century helped set the tone, and pose the central military questions, about alien visitation in the minds of the public.

Belief: Roswell researcher

Kevin D. Randle, who has a doctoral degree in psychology, has conducted extensive research into the question of alien visitation.

A co-author of "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell" with Donald R. Schmitt, Randle's latest book has just been released, "The Abduction Enigma" by Kevin D. Randle, Russ Estes and William P. Cone, Ph.D.

Randle said the new book concludes there is no proof to support claims of human abduction by aliens during the last 35 years.

Asked about Area 51, Randle said: "I was out to Area 51 with Larry King. I think what's going on is the creation of the next generation of military aircraft. Is there alien spacecraft at Area 51? I don't think so."

So far, Randle sounded like a confirmed skeptic regarding claims of alien visitations to Earth. What about Roswell?

"There's no doubt in my mind that what fell at Roswell is extra-terrestrial."

Randle bases his judgment on the research he and his co-author Schmitt have done, including government documents and interviews with eyewitnesses to the residue of the crash near Roswell about 11:30 p.m. on Friday, July 4, 1947.

Knowing the argument for extraterrestrial origins of the Roswell event has often been ridiculed, he added that if the civilian witnesses are discounted, "we can make a much stronger case."

The 509th Bomb Group was stationed at Roswell Army Air Field in the summer of 1947. Randle cites Maj. Edwin Easley of the 509th, who was provost marshal in charge of the military police who secured the crash site. Easley eventually retired as a colonel. Randle interviewed Easley several times in 1989 and 1990.

"I always got the impression he wanted to help as much as he could without violating his oath," Randle explained. "He said, 'I promised the president (Eisenhower) I wouldn't talk.'

"I asked, 'Do you think it's extraterrestrial?'

"He said, 'I don't think it's the wrong path (to investigate).' "

Randle also pointed out the presence of Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, who was the first officer, along with plainclothes counterintelligence officer Capt. Sheridan Cavitt, to reach the crash site, led by a civilian.

Marcel viewed debris on the crash site and filled his staff car with as much of it as he could. Later the 509th would secure the area and gather up the remaining debris, also taking what Marcel had brought back to the base.

In a 1979 interview quoted in "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell," Marcel said, "I was pretty acquainted with most things that were in the air at the time, not only from my own military aircraft but also a lot of foreign countries, and I still believe it was nothing that came from Earth. It came to Earth but not from Earth."

Shortly after the debris had been gathered, Marcel was photographed with a general and the remains of a weather balloon, but he later said the balloon fragments were not the debris he had found on the crash site — and he had been ordered to remain silent at the press conference that followed the picture-taking. By then he no longer had possession of any crash debris himself.

Randle emphasized that of the staff officers of the 509th involved in the Roswell incident, all but one suggested the debris was extraterrestrial.

He discounts the longstanding government claim that the debris was the remains of a weather balloon.

"These guys (the officers of the 509th) were so stupid they couldn't recognize a weather balloon?"

Referring to the extensive information in "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell," Randle said the case for an alien spacecraft crashing at Roswell is sound.

"If we take a look just at alien visitation, I think the answer's yes. I think these other things are proven; they're evidence. You've found a form of evidence that can be taken to the lab. They (scientists) don't want to take this on faith."

Yet the debris actually found by Marcel — and what happened to it — seems to remain hidden from the public just as firmly as black world aircraft.

Among the stars

Life magazine reported in March of this year that 43% of Americans "believe in UFOs" and 54% believe in intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

Americans have been considering extraterrestrial life for over half a century now and still have no aliens, living or dead, or hardware from alien technology, in public view.

Whether we humans are mistaken that aliens have been to Earth or if they are observing us; whether they are, as H.G. Wells wrote, "vast and cool and unsympathetic" or if they are peaceful and benign are questions that remain in the realm of belief and not proof, yet they have already caused us to look upward with a new sense of wonder.

By entering our minds, the questions have altered our culture and challenged our vision.

Kevin Randle, part skeptic and part believer in alien contact, has his own view about the attraction of this subject for the public.

"Isn't it just the mystery?" Randle responded. "If we can somehow solve this mystery, maybe we can walk among the stars."

LIFE AT KEN-CARYL, Littleton, CO - Nov. 8, 2000

Unusual Business Intrigues Those Passing By

by Mary Hastings

The international headquarters of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. has opened its doors to the public in its first ever store front location in the Ken-Caryl Marketplace. It didn't take long to get the attention of this reporter who understood many people might be hesitant about casually walking into the place where drawings of aliens and photographs of apparent UFO's are prominently displayed.

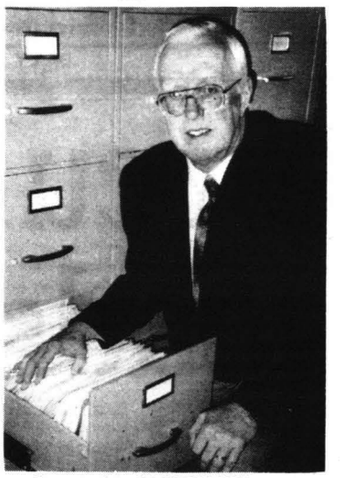
Founded on May 31, 1969, the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON) is an international scientific organization composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon known as unidentified flying objects (UFOs) by combining their mutual talents, areas of expertise and investigative reports. MUFON's Board of Consultants, most of whom are PhDs or MDs representing 50 areas of science, technology, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, theology, engineering, astronomy, communications, political science, photo analysis, etc., are readily available as an advisory group to apply their expertise to UFO cases under study and to conduct advanced research in their respective fields. The organization is continually working to get government records unsealed to assist them in finding answers to unusual phenomena.

While the organization's stated mission



is to determine the origins and purposes of UFOs and their occupants, an important corollary is to inform the general public of MUFON's presence, activities and findings. MUFON believes, "The public has a right to know the evidence in support of UFO reality. With a firm understanding of the facts and issues involved, a sound public policy can take form."

In order that only qualified, competent and sincere people may become involved, membership in MUFON is by invitation only. Currently, MUFON has 3,000 members in 65 different countries. The organization's first international director was Dr. Alan Utke, a professor at the University of Wisconsin. Walter H. Andrus, Jr., formerly in charge of quality control for Motorola, succeeded Utke. In July 2000, Littleton resident John Schuessler, a retired aerospace engineer with Boeing and MUFON founding member, was named the new international director. Schuessler was directly involved in the development of life support systems for the Gemini space program as a contractor for NASA in Houston, Texas.



International MUFON Director and Author John Schuessler

Schuessler states, "I've seen too many unexplainable things in outerspace (and on earth) while working for NASA to deny the existence of extraterrestrial life. This organization was born out of being put off by government agencies when we tried to find answers to these space age mysteries." Schuessler was the primary investigator of the Texas Cash-Landrum UFO Case, one of the most well-documented UFO mysteries on record that has confounded both the military and research experts.

When MUFON investigators (many of whom are police officers) are assigned to a case, the list of areas they must cover is overwhelming, yet necessary to the integrity of the investigation. Identifying a hoax from a legitimate encounter means researching everything from the witness' state of mind and overall psychological disposition to what was going on in the environment at the time of the alleged encounter.

Ruling out the explainable is critical; for instance, wind can alter the strength and direction of sound vibrations causing noise distortions. Other examples: U.S. weather stations and some military installations periodically launch white or orange weather balloons which may appear disk-like or globular when reflecting sunlight or moonlight. Kites are made in a variety of shapes and can reach a great altitude. When seen at a distance as an erratically moving unidentified object or glowing reflection, they may cause UFO reports. Some pranksters in the past have affixed small flashlights and even road flares to a high flying kite at night and thus set off a rash of UFO reports.

Schuessler was one of only a handful of experts to be asked by the United Nations to speak at an international symposium where interested individuals from around the world filled the U.N. auditorium with an overflow crowd sitting in the aisles. The U.N. wanted to understand how the global community could best prepare to greet and understand these anomalies.

John and wife Kathy greet visitors at the Ken-Caryl location where anyone is welcome to have a seat and browse through scientific literature or study the photographs and drawings on display. Schuessler says people will look in the window when they pass by, and he waves them in with a welcome gesture. Some people scurry away while others accept the invitation and enter to settle their curiosity about the place and this novel organization.

"People like mysteries," says Schuessler. "They see something they can't identify and they want to find answers. Most people are very sincere when they show an interest. They just want answers. This is a place where people can walk into a non-threatening atmosphere and get information or share an experience."

PEOPLE'S PRESS, Owatonna, MN - Aug. 10, 2000



Associated Press Photo

The six circles in Vick Buecksler's grain field near Owatonna, Minn., become smaller from the biggest, which is 45-feet in diameter.

Crop circles turn heads in southern Minnesota

◆ Mystery may not have concrete answer

By Faith Kammerdiener
Owatonna People's Press staff writer

OWATONNA, Minn. — Visitors from outer space?

Sandy Janke, Owatonna, believes six crop circles found in Vick Buecksler's field south of Owatonna on Steele County Road 45 could be evidence of extraterrestrial visitors.

The circles are laid out in an east-west direction with the wheat laying in one direction in a circular pattern.

The biggest circle, about 45 feet in diameter, is located on the west side. The circles become progressively smaller to the east. The sixth and smallest circle is about 4 feet in diameter.

No visible tracks lead to the circles.

"It's a mystery to me what it is," Buecksler said as he walked around the circles last week. "I don't have any idea what did it."

Buecksler discovered the 45-foot circle about a week ago. He could see it from the farm road he drove down.

He didn't discover the other circles until he and Janke started harvesting the field. Buecksler showed Janke and her husband, Dan, the circles.

"You guys just gotta see this," Buecksler said as he led them out to the field.

'We had visitors'

When they viewed them, Janke didn't know what to think, she said. She admits it's pretty awesome and a little scary.

"Oh, I think we had visitors," Janke said.

When Buecksler first saw the crop circles, he thought army-worms had wreaked havoc in the field. At a closer inspection, he found none of the wheat cut off. It's just bent over into a circular pattern, he said. The circles are also equally spaced.

"It almost looks like something was spinning and sat down," Buecksler said.

Crops circles are not just a modern phenomenon.

According to information found on The Crop Circular Internet site, the circles are mentioned in texts as far back as 1678. Up to 1970, almost 200 reports were made.

Arthur Shuttlewood and Bryce Bond witnessed the first crop circles in modern times.

The two were sitting on the slope of Star Hill Warminster, England, hoping to catch a glimpse of the strange unidentified flying craft that had made the area a UFO Mecca for almost a decade.

The two witnessed in the moonlight 100 feet away an imprint take shape, a large circular area of plants collapsed in a circular pattern.

Since then about 80 witnesses, including British Columbia residents, have reported the formation of crop circles. The circles occur in under 20 seconds and are often accompanied by sighting of unusual balls of light and shafts of light or structured flying craft.

Most designs up until the 1980s appeared as simple circles and variations of the Celtic cross. Then the designs changed into straight lines, creating pictograms.

After 1990, the circles exploded exponentially. Today, it's not unusual to come across designs mimicking computer symbols. Some occupy areas as large as 200,000 square feet.

Currently more than 9,000 crop circles have been reported and documented throughout the world, with about 90 percent emerging from England.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Nov. 9, 2000 CR: N. Oliver

LETTERS

Circular argument leads us nowhere

SCIENTIFIC tests and the hugely accurate geometry of genuine crop circles distinguish them from man-made examples (Mail).

It has been suggested that they have appeared only in fields where tractor tramlines are present.

It wasn't until 1970-72 that Zeneca ICI, in consultation with farmers, introduced the tramline system to facilitate sowing and use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides, heralding the start of intensive farming in this country.

I have several reports of crop circles before tramlines existed, or where there were none in the location in which the circle appeared.

Earliest reports of crop circles from people still alive start in the Thirties. A Mrs Songhurst told me that she saw large, anti-clockwise-swirling corn circles 60 years ago when she lived in Co. Donegal, Ireland. People there lived a hand-to-mouth existence and had no reason to fake crop circles.

Two intriguing reports come from airmen. One produced black and white photographs of two 20ft to 30ft diameter crop circles taken from above RAF Tangmere, near Chichester, in the summer of 1943.

The other, a former squadron leader, had been stationed from 1957-64 and from 1968-69 at air bases in southern England. He reports: 'Circles were not infrequent. I saw them every year in the same areas, in the large fields adjacent to Stonehenge and the rolling sides of Boscombe Down.'

Formations aren't always in arable crops. There are reports of events in ice, snow, thistles, sugar cane, potatoes, cabbages, sprouts and grass, and in August 1993 a ringed circle appeared in sunflowers near Torgau in Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany.

Accounts of circles in ice date back to 1930 in places as varied as the U.S., Sweden, Canada, and Ukraine. Sceptics who suggest these circles were man-made fail to take into account the fact that the ice was too thin to bear human weight.

In 1947, Lancashire tractor driver John Salisbury saw a circle in a potato crop. And in the summer of 1991, a farmer phoned filmmaker John Howard and asked him to photograph a circle which had appeared in his field of potatoes overnight.

He found a broad ellipse of about nine yards in diameter. All plants within it were flattened and destroyed, their leaves and stems dead, while the plants in the rest of the field were strong and healthy.

There is also a report of a circle measuring about 20ft in diameter in a large field of saffron thistles in the Goolagong area of the Bathurst District in Australia.

In 1994, two formations looking like suspended cobwebs appeared in barley at Birling Gap, near Eastbourne.

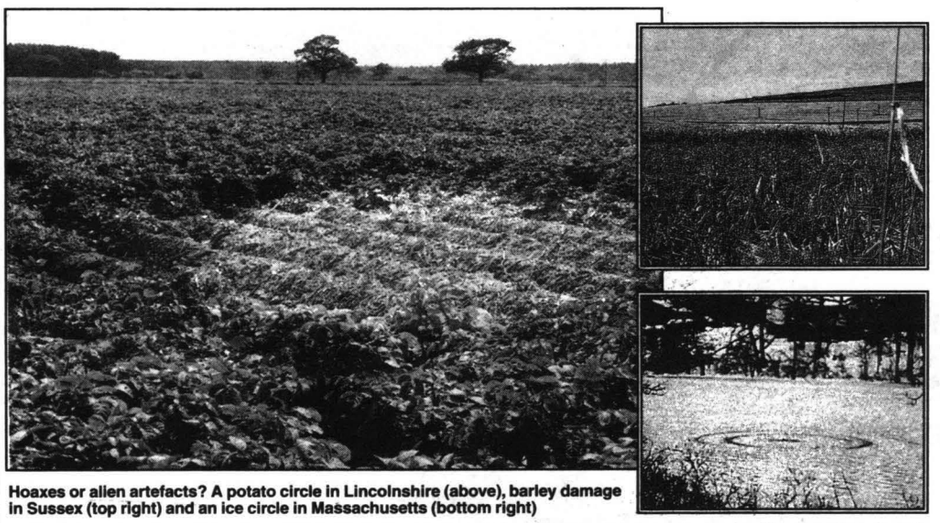
The barley had been bent uniformly about 20in from the ground, just above the point where the leaf separates from the sheath.

The top part of the crop had been bent over and was formed into myriad small vortices, each 12in to 15in in diameter, tightly interwoven and forming an overall webbing. None of the stalks was broken. The complexity of the web was astounding and its density such that it was difficult to walk through.

A few rogue stalks of winter wheat from the previous year's crop were unaffected, standing clearly visible above the twisted barley.

What force could create such an elaborate and dense barley webbing and yet leave single stems of wheat untouched?

Mrs LUCY PRINGLE, Petersfield, Hants.



Hoaxes or alien artefacts? A potato circle in Lincolnshire (above), barley damage in Sussex (top right) and an ice circle in Massachusetts (bottom right)

Alien graffiti

AT LAST, all is revealed (or is it?). The revelation by Matthew Williams that most crop circles are man-made (Mail) are matched by the assertions of Prof Michael Glickman that 'strange forces' are behind them. No doubt members of the public can draw their own conclusions.

I admit it was more fun when we could imagine alien beings on their annual intergalactic holidays zooming into Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, using their hi-tech equipment to indulge in their own style of graffiti.

BERT PRIDGEON, Littlemore, Oxon.

Not a believer

AN ACQUAINTANCE of mine has been making crop circles for years: Believers call them Hoaxers.

Hoaxers differ from Believers in that they make little or no money from their activity, whereas Believers have a vested interest (through conferences, tourists, etc) in keeping alive the myth that aliens are involved. On July 16 this year, I witnessed a short, rotund, thirtysomething, ex-shaman, complete with wraparound shades, fat cigar and ponytail, explain a heart-shaped crop formation to astonished Japanese and German tourists. He said it was an alien sign of love.

The crop formation creator standing among them listened politely, then asked the man how it was done and how long it had taken. 'It was created between 4am and 4.30am and took between one and three seconds,' came the unequivocal reply. The Hoaxer, unshaven, hollow-eyed and exhausted from his night-long endeavours, didn't give the game away.

It's a spiral that neither group seems willing to cut.

MARK WALKER, London N7.

DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England - Sept. 8, 2000 CR: S. Gerrard

Crop circles

MIKE Wray's description of a crop circle site "glowing" before dawn (Letters, August 23) was interesting. I doubt, however, if Colin Andrews's recently announced (but long known by experiencers) statement that a kind of magnetic energy exists throughout many areas beneath the ground will be disproved by Mr Wray's information.

As public relations officers of SUFOG (Southampton UFO group) I've experienced this energy every time I have visited Avebury, once with a party of 20 Americans interested in the paranormal diversities of the UK; and as recently as June 24-25 with SUFOG and the chairman of BUFORA, the UK's long-running British UFO research association.

The American lady I took to my favourite monolith at Avebury shared a tremedous updraft of overpowering energy when we laid hands on the stone. This has been repeated on the skywatch in 1999. We also visited crop circles near Silbury Hill on June 25. Entry into the circles produced blinding headaches in a lady member and disorientation in the rest of us. This same physical aspect had already been experienced form our hands-on trip around the stone circle.

However, I cannot agree with Mr Andrews totally since his theory ignores the intelligence and intention and even choice in the patterns formed in darkness and usually within a short space of time.

ERNIE SEARS, Netley Abbey, Southampton.

FOLKESTONE HERALD, Kent, England
Sept. 28, 2000

Stargazer spots some funny goings-on in the night sky

A STARGAZER claims he has spotted a UFO in Shepway's skies.

Retired Les Stagg of Hythe Road, Dymchurch, saw a strange aeriel object.

At first the object appeared to be a star but red in colour. But when Les took a closer look through binoculars he was amazed at what he saw. "It was a half moon shaped red dome the same shape and colour as a setting sun," he said. "It hovered over the Jehovah Witness house before moving towards Palmarsh. Then a silver cube started to revolve around it."

Daughter Rebecca Ashby also says she heard the UFO as it hovered over Hythe.

She said: "I was in bed and heard a strange noise, like a helicopter but more static.

"I didn't get up but I wished I had when I spoke to dad."

MEDWAY STANDARD, Chatham, England - Aug. 8, 2000

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE? IS IT A BONE?

Or do you have another (sensible) idea what this UFO might be?

A UFO has been sighted in Medway.

A Rainham couple, who do not want to be named, were sitting in their Wakeley Road garden, enjoying Sunday's warm summer evening when strange events unveiled.

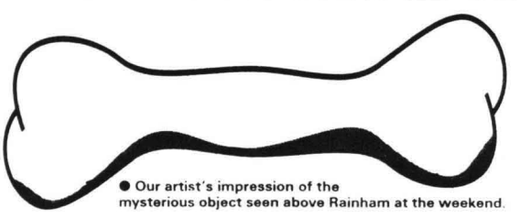
The man said his wife first saw the unidentified flying object.

He said: "It was about 7.50pm when my wife said to me 'What's that up there?'

"I looked and I could see something.

"It was scarcely visible to the naked eye – it was above the haze of the high altitude cloud, so it was very high up.

"I went and got the binoculars and I thought, 'What the blazes is that!'



● Our artist's impression of the mysterious object seen above Rainham at the weekend.

"I tried to think what it could be – a kiddie's balloon, an aircraft, or a high altitude hot air balloon, or was it just my eyes, but no. What we saw was an object that cannot be identified."

But he was quick to add: "I'm not saying there were aliens there or anything."

He described the UFO as having a solid circular figure-of-eight shape, almost like a dog's bone.

He said: "I'm very open-minded about what's going on in the sky, but I'm not a fanatic. I love all sorts of aircraft – I like to look up and identify the planes and normally I recognize them all.

"I know people talk about UFO sightings a lot and you can shoot down lots of the claims because of meteorological reasons, but this is different and it couldn't be an aircraft because it was still."

But if you are expecting the couple to be wackos or for the UFO to be fear instilling, you're very wrong.

The man said: "It didn't frighten me at all, I just thought it was a bit baffling – it was such a peculiar thing.

"This certainly denied normal logic, but then some things are completely and utterly unexplainable!"

A spokesman for RAF Aeronautical Information Service, the department that aims to be the first point of contact for UFO sightings, said there had not been a UFO sighting since a case in Bradford on 1 August.

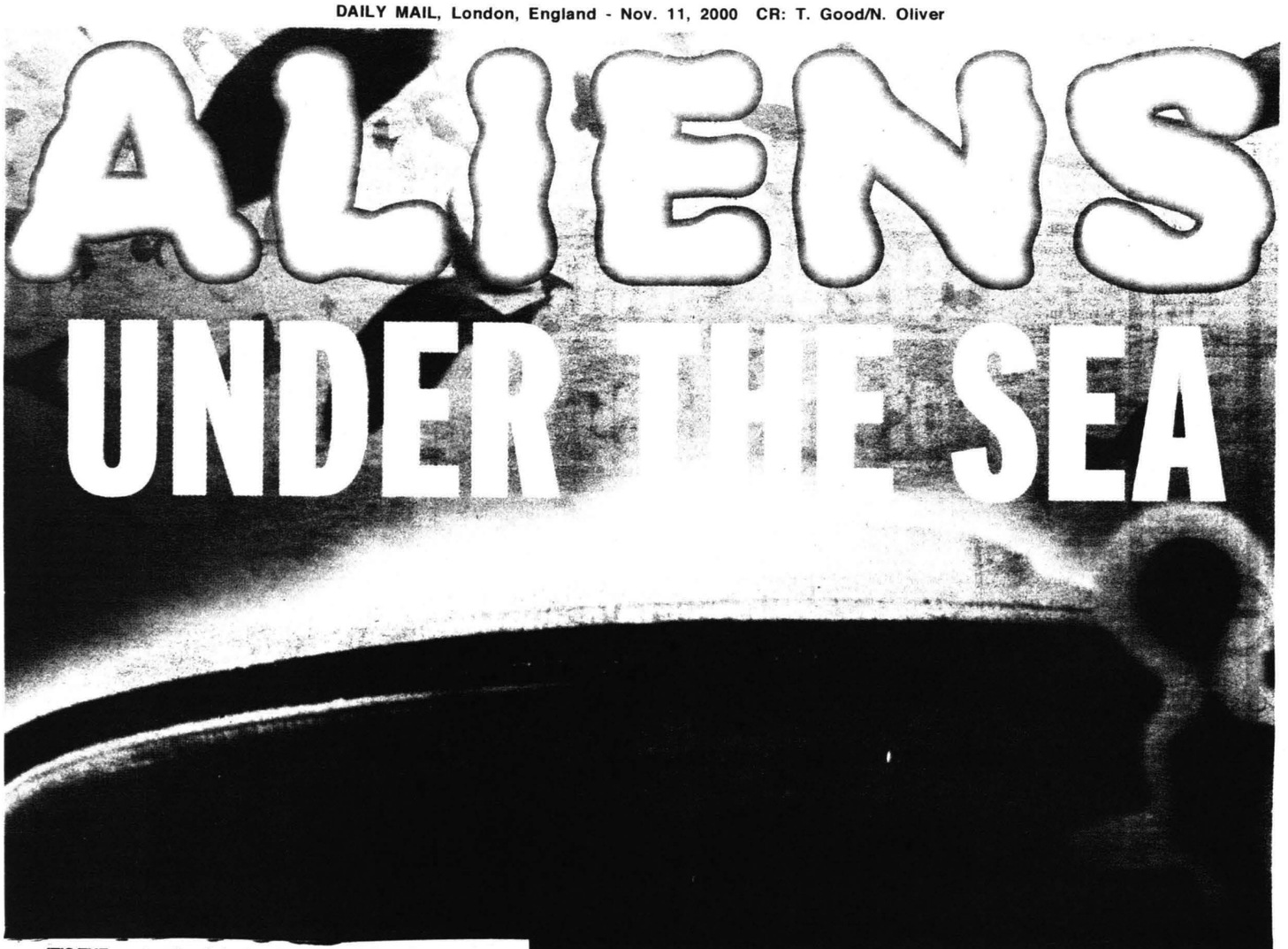
But he couldn't confirm or deny whether the UFO descriptions matched.

Roy Lake, chairman and founder of London UFO Studies, said: "We have not had any calls about UFOs in Kent for a while, but I wouldn't doubt his sighting."

● **Did you see the UFO in Rainham? Can you explain it? If so, write and tell us at: *Medway Standard*, 12 New Road Avenue, Chatham ME4 6AT.**

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Nov. 11, 2000 CR: T. Good/N. Oliver

ALIENS UNDER THE SEA



IT'S THE most outlandish alien theory yet. Beings from outer space establishing secret bases on Earth, and travelling in ships that are just as much at home beneath the sea as they are in the skies. Beyond belief? Perhaps. But a new book expounding the idea is written by one of the world's most respected authorities on UFOs, Timothy Good, and his findings are supported by one of Britain's most senior military men, retired Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton. Here, in the first of two articles, Good sets out his case. Read it, and make up your own mind ...

Forget UFOs, something fishy is going on in the Caribbean. Are Unidentified Submergible Objects the latest space menace? Judge the facts for yourself



by Timothy Good

ON THE morning of September 4, 1971, four members of the National Geographic Institute of Costa Rica were flying in a twin-engined aircraft 10,000ft above Lake Cote, near the Central American state's forbidding Arenal volcano.

A special map-making camera was slung underneath their plane. It was automatic and large-format, and every 20 seconds it took another photograph of the lake beneath.

When the photographs were developed, one of the frames showed what seemed to be a metallic disc about 160ft in diameter, which had just left, or was on the point of entering, the lake. It was giving off light, and had made a sudden manoeuvre at the instant the photo was taken.

The object showed up on neither the previous frame of film nor the one afterwards. Checks on the negative eliminated tricks of the light as an explanation.

What the geographers had seen was an extraordinary but little-known phenomenon — a USO. Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs, have been reported for centuries. What few people realise is that USOs — Unidentified Submergible Objects — have been reported for almost as long.

Sometimes, as in the mysterious incident at Lake Cote, a UFO can be seen transforming itself into a USO, or vice versa.

Lake Cote is extremely deep, and there have been numerous other reports of unknown submergible craft entering and leaving it. Local fishermen, out on the lake in the small hours, have seen various objects below them, giving off coloured lights.

Sometimes the movement of these objects has caused the men to lose their balance and risk plunging into the water. They have also been blamed for a reduction in the fish population.

One morning, around 9am, two men heard a metallic noise coming from the lake and saw an object emerge that was shaped like a submarine with three 'domes' on its top. It hung there for a few seconds, then shot off towards the mountains to the north.

Other USOs have been seen in lakes and open seas around the world, sometimes giving out light, sometimes deeply submerged, sometimes just below the surface, sometimes skimming across it — and sometimes, as at Lake Cote, entering or leaving.

Evidently, many of the objects we are accustomed to call UFOs can just as easily travel in water as in the air.

On the night of November 6, 1973, a unique encounter with a USO occurred off the coast of America. Fishermen in Pascagoula, Mississippi, reported it; coastguards confirmed it. There were nine witnesses.

The object was circular or elliptical in shape, about 12ft long, and gave out a beam of amber light. The two fishermen who raised the alarm said it looked like 'a mini-submarine' and hovered about 4ft below them in the water. It was so close that they tried to hit it with their paddles.

HOWEVER, each time they tried to make contact, the light would go out and reappear in another position. When coastguard officers were summoned, they, too, tried to hit the USO. They succeeded, and reported that the object, whatever it was, felt metallic.

The coastguards made detailed notes. The object, they said, had a parachute-like shape and moved at a speed of six to eight knots, making steadily for deeper water.

The intensity of its light varied from nothing to a glare that was sometimes too bright to look at. When a torch was shone at it, the light 'turned off' until the beam was removed. 'The phenomena observed were not consistent with any known fish, other marine life or known light source,' concluded the coastguard report.

So what was in the water — and why was it there?

THERE is one place in the world where reports of Unidentified Submergible Objects are particularly frequent, and particularly strange.

Puerto Rico, the Caribbean's so-called Island of Enchantment, lies in one corner of the area that has become known as the Bermuda Triangle, renowned for the disappearances of ships and boats, and for sightings of 'flying saucers'. It is here, in this former U.S. colony, whose politics and defence are still inextricably bound up with America, that much of my research into the USO phenomenon has focused.

A great deal of the strange activity around the island has centred on the 28,000 acres of mountainous rainforest known as El Yunque, on the north-eastern coast.

José Orlando Golís, who works for the Puerto Rican government, lives close to El Yunque. 'Many people have seen UFOs flying over the water close to the surface,' he told me. 'Once, at 1am, we saw one with many coloured lights flying next to the sea just over the surface.

'At first we thought it was a boat. It seemed to be dark underneath and had lights — mostly red and blue — at another, upper level. Then it angled and moved upwards. It made a humming sound, and seemed to head in the direction of El Yunque.'

Felix Rivera is a diver with an underwater salvage company based near the American Naval Air Station which adjoins El Yunque, one of many U.S. bases on the island. He confirmed to me that UFOs and USOs have frequently been observed — often by American military personnel.

'Navy Seals — America's elite special forces — have seen USOs here,' he revealed. 'Some have told me that these things will often come up close to boats, then shoot off. They move too fast underwater to be ours.'

Another hotspot of activity is off the south-west coast. In an area known as Cayo Margarita, 15 miles out in the Atlantic, many fishermen, as well as commercial and private pilots, claim to have seen USOs entering or emerging from the sea. Fisherman Arístides Medina said: 'Once, I was fishing late at night and two of them passed under my boat, radiating a blue light. On other occasions, I have seen them when they emerge from the water and fly away at great speed.'

He has also seen them plunge into the water — and always in the same area of the sea. It would seem these objects have definite preferences as to which part of the ocean they choose to emerge from and enter.

A REMARKABLY vivid sighting was reported by a diver called Inocencia Cataquet. He was in the water off Peña Blancas in the north-east of the island when he came across what appeared to be a disc-shaped submersible craft, lying on the seabed.

The craft seemed to be camouflaged with a sand-like material in order to blend in with its surroundings. Next to it lay a rectangular object, with a transparent cable, which was moving around in the water.

As if in reaction to the diver's presence, the cable was suddenly retracted. Unnerved, Cataquet raced for the surface — in time to see the disc emerge from the water with a loud buzzing sound and fly away.

WHAT is going on here? If strange metallic craft are emerging from the waters around Puerto Rico on anything like a regular basis, it is inconceivable that the military authorities could be unaware of it. Some of the American bases in the area have exactly the sort of equipment that would be needed to track an object from the unknown.

For example, there is the huge aerostat, or tethered balloon, that flies 15,000ft above the island's south-west coast, with radar installations slung beneath it to monitor air traffic. A number of witnesses claim to have seen strange flying objects in the vicinity.

Puerto Rico is also host to the unique radio-telescope at Arecibo, a natural crater turned into the parabolic bowl of a gigantic receiving antenna — the largest and most sensitive radio-telescope in the world.

ONE of the acknowledged roles of Arecibo is as a listening post for alien lifeforms broadcasting from outer space. The project is known as SETI — the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

Yet, ironically, unusual craft and beings have been reported around the radio observatory itself. A large boomerang-shaped object was seen 'hanging' above the telescope. One night, witnesses saw a huge disc in the sky, followed by three triangular-shaped objects.

Is the paradoxical truth that, while SETI looks for extra-terrestrial beings light years away, they are operating on its own doorstep?

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11 - DAILY MAIL, London, England - Nov. 11, 2000)

On a visit to the site in January 1999, I interviewed the observatory's Dr José Alonso. He told me that many local people believe the observatory is a focus for UFO activity.

'This is a complicated issue,' he said. 'Sometimes I think military experiments are responsible for what people are seeing. There are people who say this is a U.S. government cover-up.

'As to aliens, statistically, there has to be something. There are between 200 to 400 billion stars in our galaxy, and 10pc of them are of the same type as our sun.

'If other life forms exist, it's only a matter of time and technology before contact is made.'

Certainly, the Arecibo site is a focus for strange phenomena. One of the strangest came in March 1993, when a former British Airways pilot, Graham Sheppard, experienced a mysterious 'lateral displacement', throwing him miles off course, as he was flying his Cessna 172 light aircraft close to the telescope.

Sheppard, an expert navigator whose experience in the air spans four decades, and includes flying 747s, describes it as the most bewildering moment of his career.

'After passing over the telescope, a feeling of unease and growing confusion came over me,' he says. 'Minutes went by with no idea of my position, but I was confident the west coast would soon appear at right angles to my course.

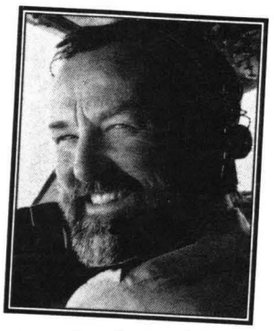
'I recall the shock of seeing the coastline, not at right angles to my course, but parallel. It became alarmingly clear that I was flying along the south coast. The navigation error here is enormous and should be impossible.'

An on-board video camera confirms that Sheppard's gyro compass was set to the correct bearing for his original course. It also confirms that he was flying at 2,200ft — yet somehow he had passed over hills up to 3,900ft high.

THE aircraft's instruments had appeared normal, and later weather checks ruled out a freak wind having blown him off course. None of the pilots to whom I have sent records of this flight can rationalise the displacement.

Sir Mark Thomson, a former Royal Navy jet pilot who has taken a close interest in the strange events around Puerto Rico, is as baffled as he is impressed.

'It is one of the most important pieces of evidence I've seen,' he told me. 'There is no explanation in our laws of physics.'



Shock: Pilot Graham Sheppard

Could such aerial displacement be linked to the disappearances that have made the whole area of the Bermuda Triangle so notorious — such as the flight of Grumman Avenger torpedo-bombers that vanished off the Florida coast just after World War II?

In Puerto Rico, there are those who report incidents that are equally sinister and inexplicable. I interviewed two groups of witnesses who, on two separate occasions in 1988, claim to have watched as U.S. Navy Grumman F-14 jets were apparently 'captured' or otherwise 'absorbed' in mid-flight by large, unknown aerial craft they were pursuing.

Perhaps it sounds like fantasy. But on one occasion, at least, it seems that the object that caused such a disappearance may even have been captured on U.S. radar.

'MAYDAY, Mayday. We can see a strange object in our course. We are lost. Mayday. Mayday'

The distress-call came at 8pm local time on June 28, 1980. José Luis Maldonado Torres, a 31-year-old pilot, was flying an Ercoupe 415-D aeroplane, together with a 22-year-old student pilot, from Santo Domingo to San Juan, Puerto Rico's main airport.

I have listened to a tape of some of the Mayday transmissions from the Ercoupe, leaked by a Federal Aviation Administration source, and the pilots' anxiety is clear.

'A weird object in our course made us change course about three different times . . . we have something weird in front of us . . . We are right again in the same stuff, sir . . .'

After these words, the pilots were not heard of again. A sea and air search revealed no trace. However, a tantalising clue lies in the official report on the incident.

During the Mayday alert, the American Naval Air Station at Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico was in contact with air traffic controllers at San Juan. At 8.16pm, 11 minutes after the Ercoupe's last communication, the Americans made an intriguing comment: 'It looks like we may see a few of them out there . . .'

What did this cryptic message mean? It suggests that the air station had made several radar contacts in the area where the plane disappeared. One of them, of course, was the Ercoupe. But what were the others? Might one of them have been the 'weird object', the disorienting 'stuff' that apparently engulfed the doomed plane?

One possibility is that the U.S. Navy had been monitoring whatever weird phenomenon caused the plane's disappearance.

Jorge Martín, the island's leading UFO investigator, has an important contact within the military, a high-ranking officer connected to the U.S. Navy.

From this source, we learn that the American authorities grew alarmed after a number of military aircraft, as well as private planes, disappeared in an area to the north-west of Puerto Rico known as the San Juan Trench.

A steep undersea cleft in the ocean floor, the lowest point of this great chasm lies 30,000ft deep, further below sea level than Mount Everest is above it.

HERE is the deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean. The pressures of sea-water there would crush any surface creature, and any but the most specially-constructed of man-made submarines.

According to Martín's source, the Navy and Air Force found that, on a regular basis, a huge disc-shaped craft would come out of the sea in the Trench, sometimes 'hanging stationary in the air on a great column of water before vanishing or submerging again'.

If this were not outlandish enough, there is more. Pilots were reportedly ordered to approach the object, only for their jets to 'explode silently, to vanish into thin air'.

Can these astonishing claims be true? And if so, what is the terrible secret lurking beneath the ocean?

A STRETCH of 100 miles of open water divides Puerto Rico from its neighbouring island, the Dominican Republic. That stretch is known as the Mona Passage.

Almost half-way across it, some 45 miles to the west of the last cape of Puerto Rico, lies the small, roughly circular, uninhabited Mona Island. At the time of its last communication, the lost Ercoupe aircraft was just to the east of Mona Island.

Other crews crossing the area have reported anomalies affecting their positioning. One pilot in a light aircraft noted an 'an uncontrollable spin' of his compass.

Jorge Martín's U.S. Naval officer offers a remarkable explanation. His revelations about Mona Island are bizarre, extraordinary, and almost beyond belief.

But when I showed my dossier of evidence to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, one of Britain's most respected military figures, he had no hesitation in endorsing my findings. A former Chief of the Defence Staff and ex-chairman of the Nato military committee, he is prepared to stake his reputation on it.

'People must make up their own minds,' he says. 'But before they do so, I would suggest that they try to imagine what their grandparents would have made, even in the 1950s, of the idea that men would shortly be walking on the Moon, or that babies could be conceived in a test tube.

'They would have found such happenings as bizarre, fanciful and incredible as some of the matters which have been reported to Timothy Good by reliable and corroborated witnesses.

'If you look at the evidence and still do not believe something very odd is going on in Puerto Rico, you've brought scepticism to an art form. Anyone who does not believe in alien activity should be required to prove why they don't, rather than the other way round.'

So just what are these claims that so challenge conventional wisdom? In short, the U.S. Naval officer claims that Puerto Rico is the site of a huge subterranean alien base — a secret complex extending deep below the ocean, constructed by aliens and visited frequently by their craft.

The officer said: 'We know that in the subsoil of the south-west of Puerto Rico there is an enormous subterranean facility, which extends under the sea as far as Mona Island.

'It is a base of "something" or "someone" that is not from here, that appears to be "extra-terrestrial". We have been following and watching the situation for many years — and we know that they are down there.'

FAR-FETCHED? Perhaps, but there are those who corroborate this account. In 1995, I met a senior reporter in Washington DC, who has provided me with information on the alien presence which he, in turn, obtained from a senior officer in the U.S. Air Force.

My reporter contact, whom I shall call 'John', is a U.S. Army Intelligence veteran. His real name is known to Lord Hill-Norton, who can vouch for his impeccable credentials.

John has always protected the identity of his source. What seems certain is that he worked at the Pentagon in the USAF Air Staff and Joint Staff.

According to this officer, it is known in senior military circles that aliens have been coming to Earth for a very long time. Following World War II, they are thought to have established permanent bases — in Australia, the Pacific Ocean, the Soviet Union, the United States and the Caribbean.

The officer did not give a location for the supposed Caribbean base, but I believe he is referring to Puerto Rico.

Most remarkably, according to this source, the bases have been established with the knowledge and protection of secret sections of the U.S. military. He says access to information about the alien situation is denied to all but a few senior personnel.

'What would happen,' John once asked his source, 'if I came out with all this, naming you?'

'We'd just make you look very foolish,' replied the officer.

RELUCTANT though we may be to accept this astounding thesis, the weight of testimony emerging from Puerto Rico is breathtaking. We even have two witnesses who claim to have been present in alien craft as they rode into the kind of alien base described by the American Naval officer.

Carlos Mañuel Mercado claims to have been taken in an alien craft to a base in the mountains adjoining Lake Cartagena, in the south-west of the island, in 1988. 'As the craft approached the El Cajul mountain,' he told me, 'I saw this brilliant light, something opened up, and the craft went in there, through a sort of tunnel and into a large cavern.'

In 1980 Iván Rivera Morales, a Puerto Rican police officer, was lying ill when his bedroom filled with golden spheres of light. Suddenly, he found himself inside a bizarre, transparent contraption, beside alien beings of grey-skinned, humanoid appearance, about 4ft high.

Morales was transported at a fantastic speed to a point high above Earth, then back to Puerto Rico's south-west coast as the craft dived rapidly towards the sea. 'The waters separated and a sort of tube formed in it, a void around the craft through which it went on descending to the depths.'

Morales describes being taken to an underwater mountain. Inside the dimly lit and freezing-cold base were other, similar beings. Morales was given a bitter-tasting drink and placed on a metallic bed. The next thing he knew, he was back in his house.

Morales no doubt elaborated his story when fêted by UFO enthusiasts. But the location of the alien base he claims to have visited ties in exactly with the area mentioned by the naval officer.

Yet another coincidence? Perhaps, but the point comes at which there are too many coincidences and too many eyewitness accounts to ignore.

On Monday I will reveal extraordinary reports that the U.S. military has gained access to alien technology and even engaged in 'war games' with our extraterrestrial visitors.

■ *Extracted from UNEARTHLY DISCLOSURE by Timothy Good, published by Century at £16.99.*
© Timothy Good 2000



Mystery: The unexplained object photographed in Lake Cote, Costa Rica

GLOSSOP CHRONICLE, Derbyshire, England - July 20, 2000

BBC probes UFO riddle

By DAVID JONES

A BBC film that could shed more light on a Longdendale UFO phenomenon corridor that's been reported around the world is being made in Glossop.

And producer Peter Trollope is promising no gimmicks and no little green men as he tries to solve a mystery that's been puzzling people for at least 30 years.

He's even talking about a sizemology report to see if Longdendale's rocks are the reason for the mysterious lights in the sky.

Peter has been in Glossop researching the lights and other sightings and is now ready to make his film,

But before the cameras start rolling, he's inviting sky watchers who have seen something unusual to reveal all.

"There's seems to be strong paranormal activity in Glossop and Bleaklow and I am interested in hearing from people who may have seen lights in the sky and have not talked about it before," he said. In fact I would like to speak to anyone who has seen anything odd associated with lights in the valley, and UFOs would come into this."

Peter, who promises to treat everything in the stictest confidence, plans to make a programme that's entertaining and may come up with reasons why so many people claim to have seen strange lights hovering over Glossop and Longdendale.

And why the area is such a magnet for paranormal activity.

He is planning to be back in Glossop in the next week or so to begin filming the Close Up North current affairs programme which could hit the small screens in October.

"I am not going to be sensational," he said.

And he definitely won't be going down the road of some TV film makers who have taken a more light-hearted look at the subject.

"I want to see if there is a logical explanation for the sightings," he went on.

If you have seen something unusual in the local skies you can contact Peter on 0161 244 3106/3098, or by e-mail on peter.trollope@bbb.co.uk.

And give the Chronicle a call on 01457 852669.

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England - Sept. 30, 2000

Book examines UFO evidence

ONE of the most famous UFO sightings, alleged to have happened a few miles from Woodbridge, will be analysed in a new book published to mark the 20th anniversary.

Author Georgina Bruni attempts to prove in her book there were UFO landings on the perimeter of the American airbase in Woodbridge.

The book, entitled You Can't Tell The People, **will be published on November 24 and will investigate the famous UFO mystery.**

American service personnel claimed they saw a small triangular craft smashing its way through pine trees during Christmas week of 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, close to the east gate of the airbase.

When Ms Randles examined the Rendlesham Forest incident, she concluded there were secret tests taking place on nearby Orford Ness and the sightings of strange lights near the airbase were used to cover up the research on the isolated shingle spit.

The book, according to the publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, brings together the definitive account from the Ministry of Defence, military and police sources and first-hand witness testimonies.

Ms Bruni is an investigative journalist and a public relations consultant who spent 30 months on her research into the Rendlesham Forest incident and interviewed more than 50 people.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - July 24, 2000

Alien answers

IF HOAXERS are responsible for creating that intricate crop circle (Mail), I challenge them to come forward and re-create the circle under the watchful eye of observers. I very much doubt that anyone will or can.

I would ask those who believe hoaxers created this geometrically precise maze to stand in the middle of a cornfield. Even in daylight, they would realise the impossibility of the task.

Let's not forget that a few years ago, in a field near Stonehenge, a corn circle consisting of about 150 circles of various dimensions appeared in broad daylight in 20 minutes. Despite being close to a major tourist attraction and next to a busy main road, no one saw anyone at all in that field.

I'm no UFO fanatic. I'm a 52-year-old housewife who is fed up with being fobbed off with illogical explanations. It's time pressure was put on those in Government to keep the public informed of what is going on in our skies.

For centuries there has been overwhelming evidence of alien life forms. Official confirmation is long overdue.

Mrs J. DERBIDGE, Salisbury, Wilts.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Sept. 1, 2000 CR: S. Gerrard

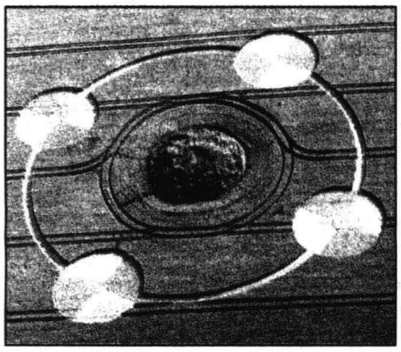
As enthusiasts still debate the mysterious origins of corn circles, we bring you this summer's most astonishing new creations

TOP OF THE CROPS

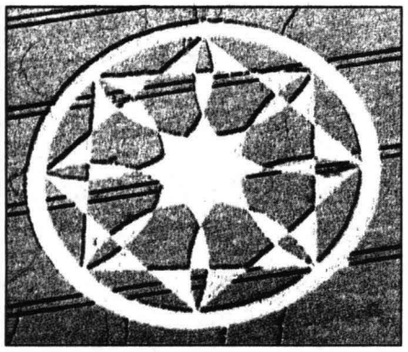
TWENTY-FIVE years after they started to appear, those mysterious swirled patterns in our corn fields still have the experts running round in circles. There are almost as many theories about how they're made as there are crop circles, but the favourites are extraterrestrial visitors, electromagnetic fields ... and mischievous teams of human hoaxers.

Whatever the answer, they have certainly become masterful works of geometry and art. This summer has seen a bumper harvest, all turning up overnight and captured in dramatic aerial photographs by researcher Lucy Pringle. Here, JAMES CHAPMAN reviews the cream of the crop circles of 2000.

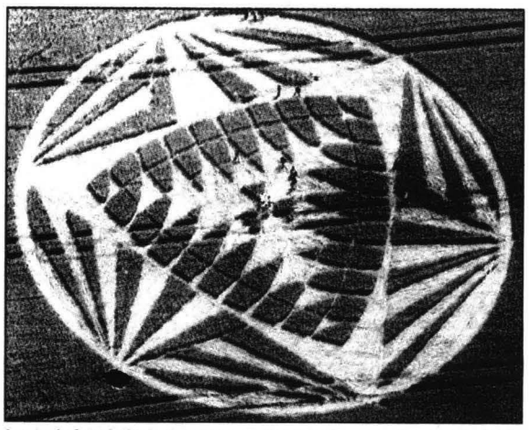
Pictures: LUCY PRINGLE



These four circles were formed around an ancient burial mound near Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire, in July

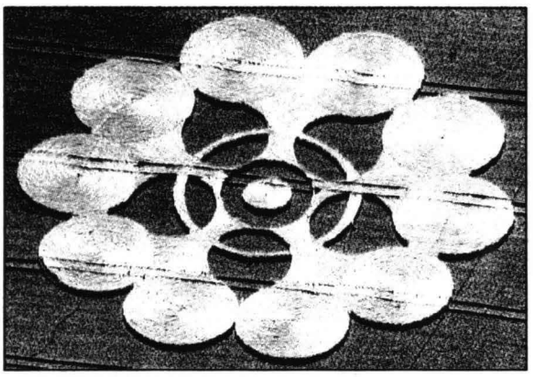


A star shape with precisely-arranged triangles and a broad ring at Roundway, Wiltshire, on June 26



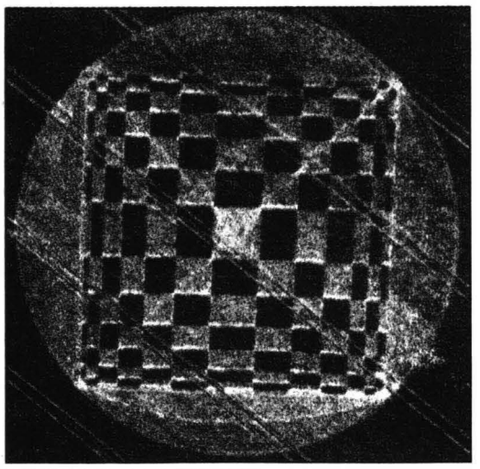
In a truly futuristic design, many flattened pathways criss-crossed this bizarre triangular pattern at Allington, Wiltshire, formed on August 1



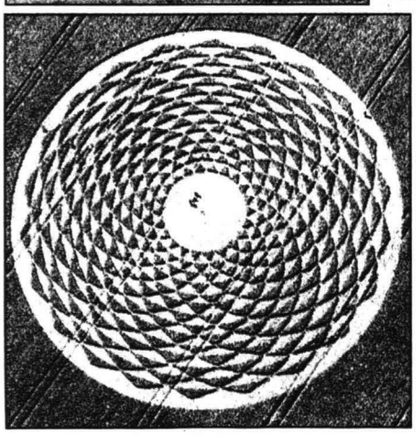


A spiral of flames around a circle (left) turned up in early wheat on July 14 at Stowell, Wiltshire

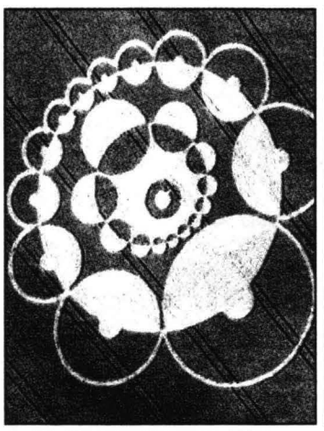
A carefully-swirled ring of circles, rings and pathways was spotted on August 11, at Clench Common, Wiltshire



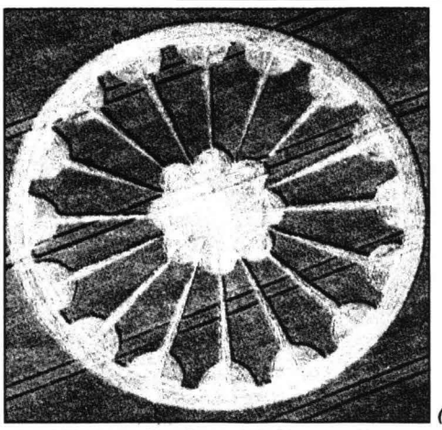
An Escher-like chessboard (right) appeared on June 18, near Windmill Hill, Wiltshire



Another vast 'spirograph' pattern appeared on August 13, at Woodborough, Wiltshire



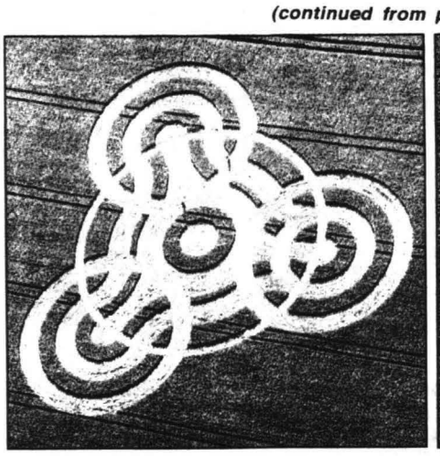
In mid-July, these rings and bubbles turned up at Bishop's Sutton, Hampshire



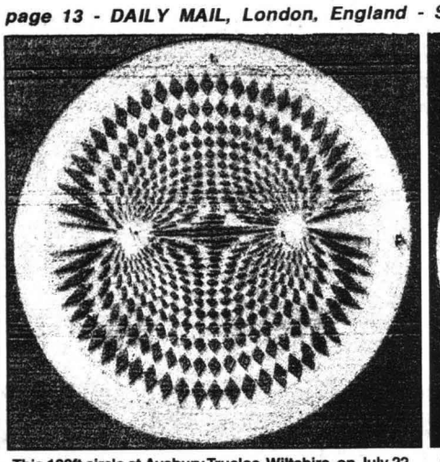
South Field, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, played host to this spoked wheel pattern which appeared on June 19

(continued on page 14)

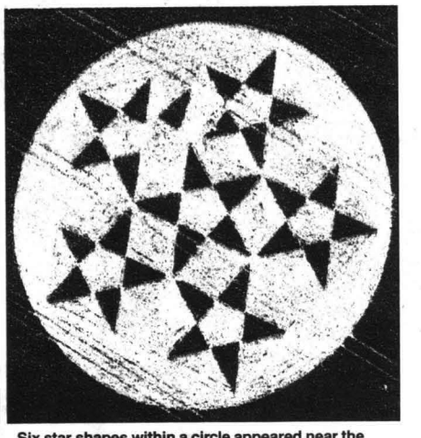
(continued from page 13 - DAILY MAIL, London, England - Sept. 1, 2000)



Curving pathways and rings make up this pattern seen on August 3, in a wheat field at Oare, Wiltshire



This 180ft circle at Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire, on July 22, was hailed as the most dramatic pattern ever seen



Six star shapes within a circle appeared near the famous Silbury Hill, Wiltshire, on July 24

NORTHANTS EVENING TELEGRAPH, Kettering, England - Aug. 17, 2000



■ LOOKING TO THE SKIES – Peter Bourne

ET picture CAU9249 24

Unidentified flying 'barrel' baffles Peter

WAS it a bird, was it a plane? A man claims he saw a UFO whiz over Desborough this week.

Peter Bourne, of High Street, was lying in his garden early Monday afternoon watching planes overhead when something strange caught his eye.

Mr Bourne said: "At a glance I thought it was something caught in the breeze but this thing carried on in a straight line.

"It was like a bat out of hell, much higher than any other aircraft and travelling twice as quickly.

"It was not shaped like an aircraft. It looked like a barrel with a grey underbelly and brown ends."

The 63-year-old builder watched the object across the clear blue sky until it disappeared behind a single white cloud.

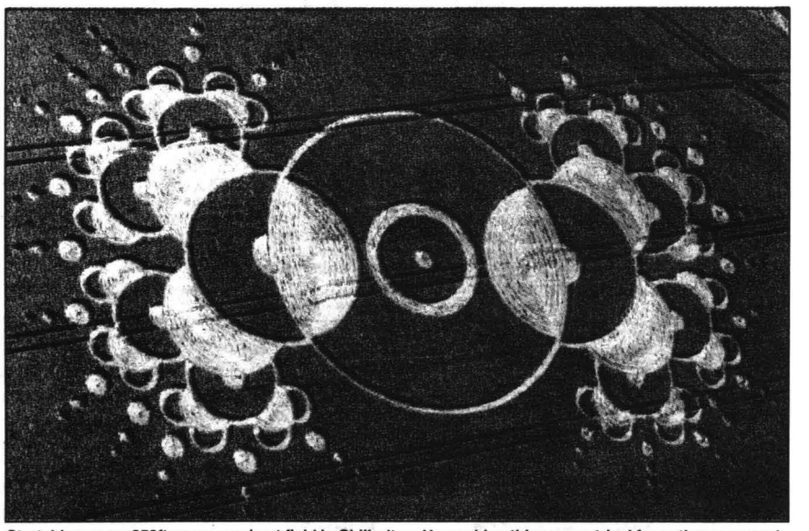
He said "Many years ago I saw a crashing satellite but this was different."

Gloria Dickson, director of investigations at the British UFO Research Association, said there had been no other sightings locally.

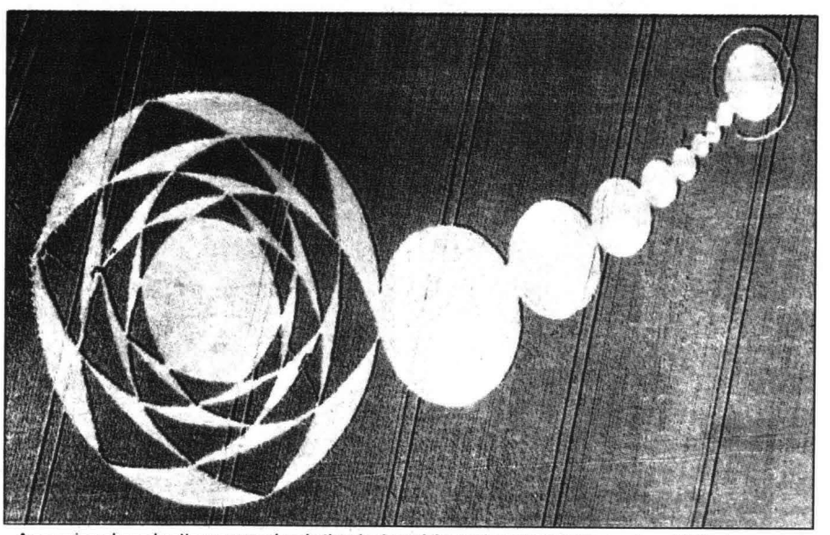
She said: "We haven't had any reports from the area yet but nearly all observations can be explained. Ninety per cent of UFOs turn out to be misidentification but there is a residual amount which are unexplained.

"The main culprits are aeroplanes and military test aircraft which we don't know about. But it could also have been something astronomical – perhaps a meteor."

Mr Bourne said: "I've considered all these things. I'm a fairly logical character and when I saw this I was bemused. It was travelling far too fast to be a plane."



Stretching some 250ft across a wheat field in Chilbolton, Hampshire, this symmetrical formation appeared just yards away from a manned radio mast on August 13 — and no one heard a thing during the night



A scorpion-shaped pattern cropped up in the shadow of the ancient white horse carving at Uffington, Oxfordshire, on July 23. Visitors to the nearby hill had the perfect ringside seats from which to admire it

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Nuneaton, England - July 25, 2000

Stargazer spots UFO over hotel

UFO experts are investigating reports of a strange craft seen hovering over Binley Woods.

An amateur stargazer claims he saw the mysterious object for almost half an hour.

The 31-year-old, who did not want to be named, said the craft was above Coombe Hotel, in Brinklow Road, early last Wednesday.

He described it as a white triangle with a red hexagon in the centre which was emitting bright lights.

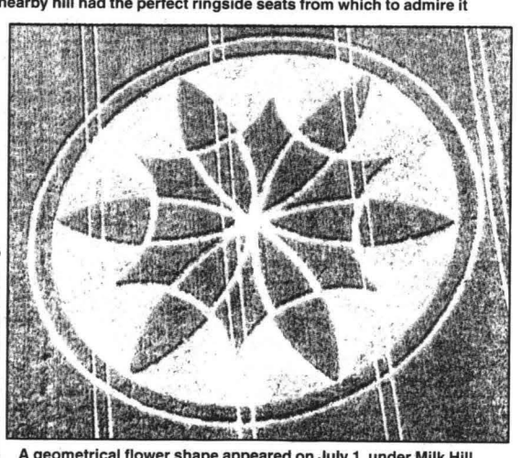
"It was amazing. I'd never seen anything like it before and don't expect to again."

The man has reported the sighting to a body of agencies including the British UFO Research Association and UFO Data Research.

Gary Aymes, general manager of the Coombe Abbey Hotel, said: "If there was anything, nobody reported it to me." He said the hotel often held laser displays, although none was held on that night.

Last year, workmen building Rugby's new library, said they saw two spacecraft hovering above St Andrew's church in Church Street.

And three years ago, a man claimed he had come face to face with an alien in a churchyard in Watts Lane, Hillmorton, Rugby.



A geometrical flower shape appeared on July 1, under Milk Hill near the Wiltshire market town of Marlborough

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - Oct. 17, 2000 CR: G. Conway

Governments think the truth is out there

By CHUCK TOBIN
Star Reporter

If you're left with the impression that governments dismiss unidentified flying objects (UFOs) as folly because they like you to think that, there's evidence to the contrary, says the founding directors of UFO*BC.

Graham Conway and David Pengilly have interviewed countless people who've reported seeing UFOs. The duo have worked with a world-famous UFO photograph taken in B.C., and have investigated a rare UFO landing sight in the Port Coquitlam, B.C. area.

To the 304 registered delegates for the first Yukon UFO Conference held last weekend, Conway and Pengilly recounted a number of eyewitness accounts.

Over the years, it's been learned, there is a corridor in the Surrey, B.C. area that's been a hotbed for sightings.

They spoke to a group of young men who were literally shakin' in their boots when they encountered a UFO at their favourite party place on a mountain next to Grouse Mountain, overlooking Vancouver.

Conway said they'd brought their drink, and quite likely their marijuana too.

What they witnessed, however, has etched on their collective consciousness an indelible mark, much greater than any hangover.

Just recently, a retired commander with the Canadian navy told of a spectacular 15-minute encounter with a spaceship while he was on graveyard watch aboard HMCS *Iroquois* in 1952.

The ship was travelling from Hawaii to Guam as support in the Korean conflict when one of about 30 strange lights in the distance came quite close to the *Iroquois*, then followed next to it.

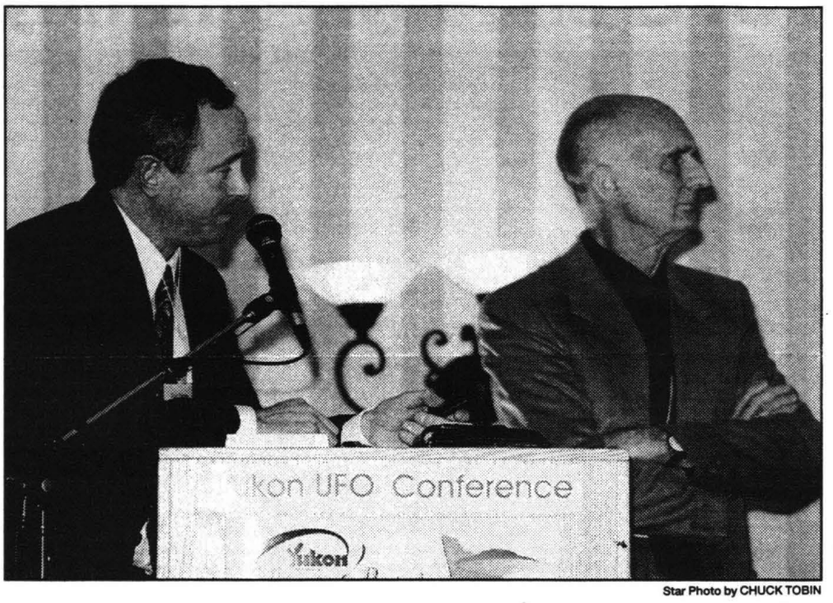
"It stayed there for 15 minutes," Conway told the audience. "He counted 24 windows. It just sat there, and he counted them, and then after 15 minutes, it was gone."

The retired commander, now in his 70s, logged the incident as a meteor sighting. The next day, another sailor who worked the watches asked him about the report of a meteor, and his response was that it wasn't really a meteor.

"The other fellow said, 'I saw those a few nights ago'. I put down, 'many meteorites seen.' "

The career navy officer, said Conway, never mentioned what he really saw to anyone else, and only came to UFO*BC two years ago simply to get it off his chest.

There was the case of a man who witnessed something strange moving through the roadside thicket while walking his dog.



Star Photo by CHUCK TOBIN

DELIVERING THEIR MESSAGE – UFO*BC directors David Pengilly, left, and Graham Conway presented several cases of UFO sightings at Saturday's Yukon UFO Conference.

"David wanted him to describe the thing as a critter or creature," Conway said of Pengilly's attempt to tone down the official report. "He refused to do that. He wanted to stay with alien.... His white dog developed brown and black patches on his fur."

During his investigation of the 1974 Port Coquitlam landing witnessed by three boys aged seven, eight and 10, Conway contacted a friend who was a civilian employee at the Comox, B.C. Canadian military base, he told the audience.

He wanted to know if the base had a branch assigned to investigating UFO sightings.

Conway said he received no reply, but when attending a conference a year or so later, one which he knew his friend would be at, he approached the fellow to ask him if he'd received his letter.

He was told by his friend that he wasn't able to respond because he didn't know if his mail was being monitored.

" 'Well, what is the answer to my question?' " Conway said, recalling the conversation. "He said, 'I can't answer your question, but I can tell you there is an awful lot going on at this base the public knows nothing about.' "

Through the years, said Conway, there have been several reports by witnesses who tell of phoning the Comox base to report unidentified flying objects.

Many witnesses describe being put on hold, then being patched through to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (Norad) in Colorado.

And there's been mention of Quebec in some of the conversations, or at least in the background discussions while the caller is waiting to speak with the right person, Conway told the audience.

One witness, he said, was put through to a party in Quebec before being rerouted to Colorado.

He said in 1997, while pursuing scholarly analysis of dirt samples taken from the 1974 landing site, one of the scientists working on the sample mentioned how he once worked in the 1960s at the St.-Hubert military base/airport on the south shore of Montreal.

As a precursor to the conversation, the scholar told Conway if he ever mentioned his name in connection with what he was about to tell him, he would deny it emphatically, Conway told the audience.

At the time, said the UFO investigator, St.-Hubert was receiving UFO reports from the Distant Early Warning Line radar stations positioned by Norad across Canada's North to protect against any bombing attacks from that direction.

"They often got a lot of reports," Conway said. He then recalled the words of the scholar.

"My job was to decode the reports and push them through a slot in the wall. The message would come back and I would send them to Colorado. My personal opinion at the time: people in Ottawa did not know what was going on at the base."

It's not true that governments are not interested in UFOs, and it's double-speak when they suggest to the eyewitnesses that it's all in their imagination, Conway told the audience.

"There are people very interested in what is going on, and have been for a very long time," he said. "I can tell you, somebody takes these reports very seriously."

DAILY STAR, London, England - Oct. 3, 2000

Mamma mia! English have sent in UFOs



HEIL MARTIANS: Mussolini, left, nearly did not join forces with Hitler

ITALIAN dictator Mussolini nearly stayed out of World War Two because he was scared of FLYING SAUCERS.

■ *by ADAM KENNET*

He had serious doubts about joining forces with Hitler after a series of UFO sightings in the 1930s.

The pint-size Fascist was told by intelligence agents that the mystery aircraft might belong to Britain or France.

The dictator's jitters are revealed in official documents, known as The Fascist X-Files, uncovered by UFO researchers Roberto Pinotti and Alberto Lisoni in Rome.

They say the Italian air force had several close encounters with alien spaceships in the run-up to the war.

A cigar-shaped spacecraft flew over an Italian air base near Mestre in 1936 and a giant "air torpedo" with windows was spotted above a military base.

Mussolini set up a special section of "Mulder and Scully" secret operatives to investigate. They concluded the incidents seemed authentic, but they could not identify whether the craft belonged to a hostile power.

A secret service document noted: "The Duce has expressed his worries because he says if it were a matter of real English or French aircraft, his foreign policies would have to start all over again."

Invasion

Mussolini took Italy into the war after being assured allied technology could not have produced the UFOs.

In 1941, he made a cryptic reference to them. He said: "It's more likely the United States will be invaded by unknown but warlike inhabitants from the planet Mars, who will come down on unimaginable flying fortresses, than from the soldiers of the Axis."

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Sept. 5, 2000

UFO experiences revealed

FORMER Todmorden policeman Mr Alan Godfrey is to recount his own close encounter with an UFO - an Unidentified Flying Object - at a national conference in Leeds later this month.

Mr Godfrey will be speaking at an arm-chair forum which opens the conference at the University of Leeds on September 15.

In November 1980 Mr Godfrey was on patrol in Burnley Road when he was confronted by what was described as a diamond shaped UFO the size of a double deck bus.

His communications packed up and some minutes later he found himself 100 metres from where he had been.



Alan Godfrey

Mr Godfrey, who later retired from West Yorkshire police after an injury picked up earlier in his career, also remained convinced that he was not the first close encounter in Todmorden.

He remains convinced that the death of a Polish man, whose body was found at Todmorden coalyard four days after his disappearance, was murder rather than the inquest verdict of natural causes.

The body had burn marks to the head and an open wound on the neck, which Mr Godfrey believes occurred during an alien abduction.

Another highlight of the conference is expected to be film by space shuttle astronauts clandestinely recorded by former Canadian cable TV manager Mr Martyn Stubbs, who will be introducing the shots on the last day of the three-day conference.

He will be followed by a U.S. researcher with secret film from shuttle missions, including activity filmed round the Mir space station.

The three day conference is the largest event of its kind in Western Europe.

STAR, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada - Oct. 18, 2000 CR: G. Conway

Strange UFO shadowed family in 1996

By CHUCK TOBIN
Star Reporter

Though it's been four years since she and her daughter saw three UFOs along Hamilton Boulevard in Whitehorse, only recently did former Whitehorse resident Colette Opper learn there might be more to the encounter.

Opper told the audience at last Saturday's UFO conference that she and her daughters were also shadowed by a UFO one night after leaving the Takhini Hot Springs.

The Oppers now live in Edmonton. But in November 1996, Opper and her eldest daughter, Brianne, were driving to their home in the Granger area at about 10:30 p.m., following a performance at the Yukon Arts Centre, when they first saw a UFO.

Four months later, while returning from the Takhini Hot Springs at around 10 p.m., Opper and her three daughters watched as an unidentified object seemed to follow them all the way into the city from the Hot Springs Road.

But the encounter of the closest kind apparently occurred during the Hamilton Boulevard incident, the audience was told by the 12-year Whitehorse resident, who worked as a recreational therapist for the Yukon government.

As she and Brianne approached the big bend just before Elijah Smith Elementary School, they saw three large lights hovering about five metres above the ground.

Both Opper and her daughter remember breaking out in hysterical laughter, for no rational reason. They remember seeing the lights ahead of them, and then again as they looked back from a point just beyond the traffic lights.

"But I do not remember being beside them."



Star Photo by CHUCK TOBIN

ABDUCTION SUSPECTED - Hypnotist Helen Neufeld (right), and UFO eyewitness Collette Opper, discuss Neufeld's work to help Opper remember her November 1996 encounter with unidentified objects along Hamilton Boulevard.

After her first session in August with internationally-renowned psychologist and hypnotist Helen Neufeld, both Opper and Neufeld suspect Opper's Hamilton Boulevard encounter was one of the third kind.

They suspect Opper and her daughter were detained for however long – moments, minutes – by life forms aboard the three UFOs.

"I did not see anybody because the light was so close around me," Opper recalled for the audience.

"I felt there was people there, I know there were beings there... I was thinking, 'Where is Brianne? I knew she was safe and I also knew she would be OK.

"The other thing that came out of that was something, the feeling that I was getting; there was some energy actually going into the left side of my brain, and it was a very different feeling."

Neufeld said in her 30 years' experience working with hypnosis, and as a chartered psychologist who's been practising privately for 21 years, she's experienced the difference between subjects under hypnosis who are reliving genuine and fabricated events.

When it comes to the genuine moment, there's no mistaking the change in body language, she said.

As Opper relived the time between first seeing the lights and then glancing back at them, her face became distorted or contorted almost beyond belief.

"The face was so totally, absolutely different ... that there is no question in my mind that she was undergoing a distasteful – distasteful may be the wrong word – but in awe.... It was grimacing in the extreme, but I did not see terror."

Both Opper and her daughter were left with marks on their body, marks that can look like bruises. But they do not fade like any bruise she's ever seen. There's no change in colour, from the black-and-blue prominence of the standard bruise, and then fading to the yellowish tinge before it goes away.

In this case, it's as though the marks were there, and then they were gone.

Neufeld, who's also been a school educator for 30 years, told the audience the marks on Opper's body, and how they eventually went away, are consistent with the experience by countless others who've reported similar encounters.

Opper said she decided to undergo hypnosis in August because she felt there was something lingering in the back of her mind.

Brianne hasn't undergone hypnosis, but may. Brianne knows her mother has, but they've not discussed the sessions, nor are they making a big deal out of the Hamilton Boulevard encounter.

While raising three children and working, there's not a lot of extra time to be preoccupied with the experience, she said. After all, Opper added, it was not a negative one.

Opper explained in an interview that she decided to return to Whitehorse for the conference as a show of support. The conference was, in part, to show people it's OK to talk about UFOs, with an aim of reducing the ridicule most often aimed at those who tell of eyewitness accounts.

She remembers the ridicule her daughters faced at their local school when a local newspaper went to far in describing the family while recounting the Hamilton Boulevard experience after it happened.

"It is just something for people to be aware of, because I did see what I did, and my children did see what they saw."

ADMAG, Evesham, England - June 16, 2000

Close encounters of the Vale kind

By Phil Sunderland

SPECULATION about a UFO sighting in the Vale has increased in the wake of last week's *Admag* front page story.

We have since heard from two other people who say they, like Jim Brace, a Unipart security officer, also saw a UFO on the night of June 4.

Gemma Lawrence, aged 20, of Clevedon Green, South Littleton, said: "I first saw the UFO when I was in the car with my parents.

"I was returning to South Littleton from a pub in Cleeve Prior when I saw it, I shouted at them to stop the car, but we were nearly home anyway."

"When we got home, I went outside and watched it for 10 minutes, before it vanished. I called out to my mum and dad to come out and see it."

Correct

Gemma says that Jim's account of the UFO – in which he said he spent an hour watching it circle over Long Lartin prison while rotating and flashing lights – was pretty much correct.

"It was a huge round rotating object with round lights on the side of it.

"I am completely and totally convinced it was a UFO, it was too big to be an airship or any kind of aircraft," she states.

"It definitely wasn't a laser show of any kind, you couldn't possibly scale how big it was anyway."

The incentive to open an X-File could now be reinforced with an Evesham lorry driver's story. Dave Seymour, aged 28, of Mill Street, called us to say he was on his way back from Wales and driving through Willersey when he saw the UFO.

"I saw something very strange in the sky and nearly crashed the lorry," he says. "I got back into the yard at Honeybourne and parked the lorry when I saw it again and stood watching it for about 10 minutes."

"It was stationary, there was no sound, nothing, just silence as was described."

He says he did not say anything until he read Mr Brace's account because he was afraid no one would believe him.

He describes it as a massive circular shape with what looked like little dim lights – "a beautiful looking thing".

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - Sept. 22, 2000

More mysterious sightings

TWO more families today claimed to have seen mysterious flying objects off the Dorset coast.

Paul Broad, his wife Denise, children Danny and Amy, spotted a silver V-shaped object in the sky while driving from Dorchester to their home at Walditch, near Bridport.

He said: "I am sceptical about such things. But I haven't got a clue what this was – it was very weird."

The sighting comes after the Roaf family on Portland saw a UFO over Lyme Bay. Other sightings have come in from Eype, near Bridport, and Overcombe Corner in Weymouth.

Donna Dowden, 23, also says her family saw a bright orange glow moving around out to sea off Weymouth Bay.

Mrs Dowden, who was with husband Perry, children Chelsea, eight, and Liam, one, said: "We were dumbfounded. It definitely wasn't a firework because it disappeared and then came back again quite fast.

"It was in the sky and was almost golden, although it didn't have a definite shape."

CENTRAL SOMERSET GAZETTE, Wells, England - Aug. 31, 2000

Unusual lights

Visitors to a candle-lit evening celebrating the full moon saw more than they had bargained for.

The two-and-a-half acre grounds of the Chalice Well Gardens were lit with hundreds of candles and lanterns as the guests were readying themselves to enjoy a one-hour recital by John Dalton.

It was then that a bright light appeared in the sky.

Lynne Orchard, guardian of the Chalice Well, said it was accompanied by a roar which sounded like an aeroplane, but it definitely wasn't.

It was not a star either, she said.

"It just got bigger and brighter, you couldn't help but notice it," she said.

"I can't say whether it was a UFO or not, but it was something quite remarkable."

INDEPENDENT, London, England - July 14, 2000

Mexico City gridlocked by sightseers after hotel releases a dozen 'UFOs'

A FORMATION of unidentified flying objects hovering over Mexico City's Chapultepec Park unleashed what one newspaper called a "communal psychosis" on Wednesday. For four hours, hundreds rushed outdoors to gawp up and point.

Many gathered on rooftops or blocked streets. Radio stations spread the word about flying saucers and the four main thoroughfares were gridlocked for hours as motorists craned their necks to see any extraterrestrial craft.

More than a dozen shiny discs loitered, then swerved as excited Mexicans tracked their progress between soaring cumulus clouds in an unusually clear sky. Efraim Cruz, a tamale vendor, said: "To me they looked like distant silver sparks, and I only watched for a second."

By Jan McGirk
in Mexico City

This is a mile-high society in the tropics, which has 1,000-year-old pyramids dedicated to the planets. A three-hour radio programme every Sunday recounts sightings of unearthly visitors, and Chapultepec Park was reportedly the venue for flyovers in 1993 and 1997.

The Secretary of Public Security and Mexican airport authorities eventually said the latest "visit" was a promotional stunt – a hotel had released clusters of enormous metallic balloons around lunchtime.

But Jaime Maussan, who documents UFO phenomena and hosts the radio show, said: "From 10am we received reports that various objects in the sky were assuming geometrical formations and they were captured in 15 videos. Around 1.30pm the balloons were released. This created confusion."

Nasa reported a strong solar flare on Wednesday morning, capable of causing radio blackouts, which had followed two coronal mass ejections that sent huge clouds of electrified gas hurtling toward Earth at a speed of 2 million miles per hour.

The United States space agency noted that the sun was at its peak of an 11-year cycle of activity, and the turbulent surface was rotating towards the centre.

The US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, which predicts the effects of solar eruptions, said there was a 40 per cent chance that the peak of the cycle would trigger a disruption of the Earth's magnetic field and create an *aurora borealis* – northern lights – reaching into the mid-lattitudes, much further south than normal. Scientists predicted the celestial light shows might occur for two days more.

But Jose Alfredo Diaz, 43, a pharmacist, said: "It's 50-50 those were really UFOs. Some moved up and down; others stood still. They were very high."

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 14, 2000 CR: G. Duplantier



LYNNE SLADKY / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trimmer Dettor snorkels along the Bimini Road, an ancient, underwater arrangement of stones that some say leads to the lost city of Atlantis. The stones, which lie about five to six metres below the surface, have baffled natives, mystics and scientists for generations.

Lost city of Atlantis or just a pile of rocks?

Underwater site holds strong pull for psychics and mystics

BY TIM MCDONALD

NORTH BIMINI, BAHAMAS • A half-kilometre off Paradise Point, where the thin leaves of Australian pines wave in the southeasterly trade winds, lies an ancient, underwater arrangement of stones that has baffled natives, mystics and scientists for generations.

Decades of both weird and real science have only served to intensify the mystery.

They call it the Bimini Road and some say it leads to the lost city of Atlantis.

Others say it's simply a bunch of rocks.

Arriving there recently, our skiff manoeuvres over a narrow opening in the reef that separates the Bahamian islands of North and South Bimini, heads briefly toward Florida and then darts north, skimming over water so clear it's like floating atop a cushion of liquid air.

Trimmer Dettor, a tanned American in his early 20s, slows the boat, throws an anchor off the bow and points to the ocean floor 80 kilometres off the Florida coast. Six metres below the surface lie the stones, some as big as boulders. Most are rectangular in shape, and seem to be fitted together, linked, as if for some purpose. They form two, roughly parallel lines, about 60 to 70 metres apart, facing southwest to northeast for a half-kilometre in the shape of the letter "J."

Ever since the American psychic Edgar Cayce almost 70 years ago predicted that signs of Atlantis would be found near Bimini, his followers and others have found reason to believe the "road" is clear evidence of the mystical place that first appeared in the writings of Plato.

There are the mystics who on faith alone believe — but there are also those who think scientific evidence may point the way to an ancient civilization.

Dettor has seen plenty of the first type. "I take them out here all the time," he says, squinting in the glare of a tropical morning.

Some of the mystics don't even want to go underwater, he says. They stay aboard with their crystals — the gemstones they use for healing and divination.

Bill Keefe, who owns and operates the only dive shop in Alice Town, estimates 300 to 400 people pass through his shop each year on their way to the Bimini Road (not counting those who come on U.S.-based charters).

"We've seen some things most people would find very strange," Keefe says, including a group of gay mystics with snake skin in a decorative box, who sat in a circle and chanted, then jumped in the water. Or the group that startled Keefe by pulling out black onyx skulls before exploring the site.

Belief in the existence of Atlantis incorporates both the scientific and the fantastic. Scientists who believe rock formations and artifacts — both in the Bahamas and in other parts of the world — point to civilizations more ancient than presently believed are wary of using the actual word Atlantis.

For centuries, various theories by the mystical, quasi-scientific and just plain odd have claimed that evidence of a lost continent — submerged in a cataclysm when the Ice Age ended — lies scattered over vast regions of the ocean floor and in remote corners of the Earth, including Egypt, Antarctica, the Greek island of Crete, Bolivia and other parts of South America.

The Bimini Road part of the debate dates back to the 1930s, when Cayce went into a hypnotic trance and predicted evidence would be found near the island in the 1960s.

As the date neared, so did the searches for Atlantis, and several private pilots reported seeing what appeared to be a man-made anomaly in the waters off Bimini.

In the 1970s, David Zink, an amateur geologist who was formerly an English professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, took samples of the stones to a Houston psychic, who concluded they were part of fallen pillars from a sacred temple built around 28,000 BC. The temple was built primarily by Atlanteans, Zink concluded, and their subcontractors were aliens from the star cluster Pleiades.

More scientific expeditions have been conducted in the area with inconclusive results. Skeptics say the Bimini Road is a natural formation of native beachrock and, indeed, seemingly similar formations can be found along the shorelines of North and South Bimini.

Others have suggested the rocks are ballast dumped from sailing ships.

"Most of the skeptics I have read are of the 'Atlantis is impossible' variety, and have never done any exploration in the area at all," says Doug Richards, a geologist who has carried out research and written papers for the Meridian Institute, a Virginia Beach, Va., organization that sponsors research into the connection between mind and body. "I think that most likely it is a natural formation, but neither side of the debate has done the work necessary to prove it one way or the other."

Richards says at least part of the Bimini Road may be man-made.

"For example, there are large stones balanced on top of smaller stones," he says. "Beachrock does not form that way naturally, so if it is beachrock, it appears to have been moved by humans. There is also a circle of stones that looks nothing like a natural beachrock formation."

Most Bimini natives seem on the skeptical side, although Ashley Saunders, a 40-year-old poet, philosopher and head of the Bimini Historical Society, says this was not always so.

"In the old days, that area was always a mysterious place," says Saunders, taking a break from building a new house. "We knew about those stones long before any mystics or psychics or scientists. We thought it might be a sacred site where God inspired man or God himself lived. We didn't fool around with it. We thought of it more as a place of worship.

"Today, not many people here are interested in it."

Some are interested enough in the tourist potential.

Tourists and natives alike drink Atlantis Spring Water — "Tapped from beneath the historical sounds of Bimini, where lies the 'Lost City of Atlantis.'"

Nor does the Bahamian government discourage such belief. It has invested heavily in the US$800-million Atlantis Resort near the capital, Nassau — which features an Atlantis museum — by offering tax breaks and other concessions.

The Associated Press

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, OR - July 7, 2000

Interest in Bigfoot sighting fades

CAVE JUNCTION — Bigfoot's 15 minutes of fame seem to be over at the Oregon Caves National Monument.

The flurry of media and Sasquatch sleuths that descended upon the monument in Josephine County died down Thursday, just two days after word hit the world that a Grants Pass psychologist said he spotted a Bigfoot while hiking a backwoods trail.

"Today, there's not a peep. Not a peep from anyone," said Superintendent Craig Akerman. "That's probably the last we'll hear of it."

Matthew Johnson said he encountered a creature he is sure is Bigfoot while hiking the Big Tree Trail Saturday afternoon, after viewing the caves with his wife and three children.

The family first smelled a foul odor, then heard guttural "whoa whoa" sounds from the woods along the trail. While off the trail relieving himself, Johnson saw what he maintains was a large and hairy creature darting from tree to tree and spying on his family, he said.

> "I don't think our visitation levels have been affected at all. Not one vistor commented to me or anyone here that they were here because of Bigfoot."
>
> **— Craig Akerman**
> **Oregon Caves superintendent**

Bigfoot researchers rushed to the area to investigate, and media from across the country telephoned the park service Tuesday and Wednesday to learn more about the case, Akerman said.

By Thursday, the excitement had basically disappeared.

"I don't think our visitation levels have been affected at all," Akerman said. "Not one visitor commented to me or anyone here that they were here because of Bigfoot."

Had the researchers been successful in finding and capturing Bigfoot at the caves, however, they would have run into some trouble with the law.

You might be able to catch a Bigfoot on nearby Siskiyou National Forest land, but it's illegal to capture a creature in Park Service territory.

"If someone did that," Akerman said, "we'd have to arrest them."

TIMES, Seattle, WA - July 7, 2000

Two differ on Bigfoot tracks

Not enough evidence found vs. there's plenty

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT ANGELES — Two researchers looking into reports of curious tracks on the Lower Hoh Indian Reservation have come to different conclusions about whether they might have been caused by Bigfoot.

Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, assistant professor of anatomy and biology at Idaho State University, concluded there was not enough factual evidence to continue an investigation.

The other, self-proclaimed Bigfoot tracker Cliff Crook, believes the evidence is so great he is headed back to gather more data. Crook, who was on the scene a day before Meldrum, said he found many clues leading him to believe the tracks were created by a Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, a large, hairy creature that has been reported around the world but is most closely identified with the Pacific Northwest.

Crook estimates the animal on the Hoh Indian Reservation stands about 8 feet and has feet 17 inches long and 7 inches wide.

Crook, 59, is a co-editor of the journal Bigfoot Trails. He's a Bigfoot tracker, a Sasquatch detective, an assembler of some 400 plaster footprints. He and his wife, Carol, teamed as technical advisers for the Bigfoot film, "Harry and the Hendersons."

Meldrum, who has studied the Bigfoot phenomenon for four years, sent a researcher out to investigate the area where Gene Sampson and Steven Penn first reported seeing tracks. Meldrum's crew did a thorough search of the land, looking for any physical signs of Bigfoot such as hair and footprints.

"Our general take was that there was something going on on their properties, but it was not attributable to research of Bigfoot we have seen in the past," Meldrum said.

LINCOLN JOURNAL, Hamlin, WV - Nov. 30, 2000



In the Woods

By Bo McComas

BEWARE THE OGUA

I first heard of the Ogua years ago from an old timer, from the northeast part of our wonderful state. Then while reading, I happened across the story again and learned more about this creature, but thought little more about it till this past year. Recently, I have heard troubling tales from anglers on the Guyandotte River.

Ogua, also known as Agou or Agua, supposedly is a creature reported to weigh around 500#, 20 ft. in length with a long tail. Amphibious in nature, it lurks in the underwater caves or under bridges during the day, but ventures onto land after dark. There it lies motionless in wait along deer paths near the water where deer come to drink. After capturing these poor animals with its long and powerful tail, it drags them into the water and drowns them before consuming its prey.

The Monongahela River is supposed to be the home of this water monster, but it is not hard to imagine them being able to migrate to other parts of our state considering the vast number of waterways. Originating as an Indian legend to frighten their children from venturing near the deep and wide river they lived near, the great Monongahela. Ogua were very common in past centuries according to folk-lore and transcripts of letters sent home to England from early settlers. Reports of killing these creatures were common in these letters as means to impress their relatives back home. One story I read in the magazine *WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA*, reported that in the late 1700's, a group of men killed one with clubs after weighing it and found it to be 444#. Folks, I live along the banks of the Guyandotte River and fish it often, I think I will do a little more light shining the next time a 'tree' falls into the water.

Recently, a friend of mine told me about sighting a large creature near Fall Creek, where the old dam was supposed to have been years ago. He stated he first supposed it to be a deer crossing the river, bu just as it went out of his sight, its neck seemed to stretch to an almost impossible length. He also said he was very quick in vacating the area. The hair on his neck stood up so hard he told me be thought they were going to jump off.

I, over the past few months have heard several tales that have gotten me to wondering, could one of these legendary creatures have made it into our nearby rivers? Perhaps last year's drought forced it (or them?) to search out new haunts? Have you seen or heard unusual things on a trip to the Guyandotte or other body of water that you can't explain? If so, report to me, also I would be very interested in pictures if any of you good folks were lucky enough to get one without being eaten in the process. I kind of hope there is an Ogua in our area, supposedly they are very good eating. Tastes like chicken is what I hear, and folks, I just love chicken!

CR: B. Cater

DAILY OKLAHOMAN, Oklahoma City, OK - Aug. 8, 2000

Bigfoot's '70s reputation hinders serious research

By Peter Hartlaub
San Francisco Examiner

SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. — Researchers trying to legitimize the search for Bigfoot have a mortal enemy, more fearsome than any grizzly bear or armed wilderness hermit: the 1970s.

Think back to comic books. Monster trucks. Lee Majors in a polyester suit.

Reports of giant hairy bipeds walking across the Pacific Northwest and parts of Canada go back nearly 200 years. American Indians have passed on stories about the man-ape creature for generations.

But Bigfoot's celebrity status is relatively new. That fame peaked during five tacky years from 1975 to 1980, when Bigfoot was as A-list as Burt Reynolds and Sally Field.

"It was a cartoon," said Matt Moneymaker, president of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization. "People used to say, 'I saw Bigfoot' like they would say, 'I saw Batman.' "

BFRO members, like others trying to collect evidence of Bigfoot, believe their jobs would be easier if history were a little nicer to the creature.

Interest in Bigfoot renewed when Oregon psychologist Matthew Johnson said he saw it in July during a hike with his family. Since then, the BFRO and Johnson say, people have come forward who had been holding back their stories because they feared ridicule.

The name "Bigfoot" was first used by journalists in 1958, after taxidermist Bob Titmus made plaster cast footprints of creatures rumored to be wandering deep in the Six Rivers National Forest in Northern California.

The most famous sighting came in 1967, when Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin filmed 24 feet of who-knows-what walking near Bluff Creek in Six Rivers.

While it was debated whether that film is a hoax, journalists took a scientific approach to the claims of Titmus and Patterson and Gimlin.

The change came in the mid-1970s, when supermarket tabloids made the creature their poster boy, coming out with "I Had Bigfoot's Son!" type stories. The Hollywood marketing machine took over after that.

Among the sightings: Bigfoot fought Majors on TV's "Six Million Dollar Man" during five episodes in 1976 and 1977. He faced "The Incredible Hulk" in 1979, although the end of the show portrayed Bigfoot a hoax. In 1978, the Marvel Comics "X-Men" introduced a Bigfoot-like character called "Sasquatch." And at a Denver car show in 1979, construction contractor Bob Chandler put Bigfoot's name on a jacked-up pickup, creating history's first "monster truck" show.

Moneymaker said the BFRO often hears from people who say they saw a Bigfoot in the 1970s and didn't tell a soul for 20 years. "To be branded crazy and a liar — that's something really hard to live with in a small town," Moneymaker said. "So they keep it secret."

Over the past two decades, Bigfoot believers with theories grounded in science have been getting air time. Leonard Nimoy went "In Search Of . . ." Bigfoot in a popular episode of that 1980s television series. An A&E cable network documentary came out in 1994, taking a serious look into the myth, focusing on Peter Byrne, whose Bigfoot Research Project was financed for a while by a group that supports scientific study outside the mainstream.

Most recently, the Internet has made it easy for Bigfoot believers to share stories. On dozens of sites, sightings and theories are exchanged in complete anonymity.

Some are far-out merchandise-oriented groups, but most seem at least partly grounded in research. The largest group appears to be the BFRO, which has an on-line list of reports from every state except Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island and Hawaii.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

HERALD-SUN, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Oct. 27, 2000 CR: P. Norman

Sounds like Nessie

AN international team of monster-hunters began a search for the most famous and elusive resident of Loch Ness this week, using an underwater microphone designed to detect Soviet nuclear subs.

Swedish hunter Jan Sundberg is a veteran of 25 years of scouring murky waters across the world.

Even though the Loch Ness monster has the biggest reputation of them all, he is in the market merely for noises from the depths of Britain's largest lake.

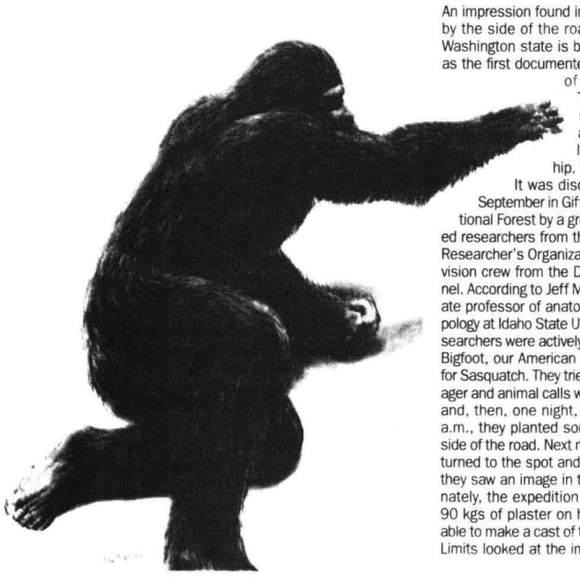
"We're not here for photos. Nobody trusts them any more — they are too easy to fake," Mr Sundberg said.

"We heard a large swooshing sound on the hydrophone last time we were here. It sounded like a big animal with large flippers moving through the water.

"We are looking to get more of that."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Nov. 9, 2000 CR: G. Conway

THAT'S MR. SASQUATCH TO YOU



An impression found in a muddy area by the side of the road in southern Washington state is being described as the first documented body imprint of a Sasquatch.

The imprint is supposed to be a large animal's left forearm, hip, thigh and heel.

It was discovered in late September in Gifford Pinchot National Forest by a group that included researchers from the Bigfoot Field Researcher's Organization and a television crew from the Discovery Channel. According to Jeff Meldrum associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University, the researchers were actively trying to find a Bigfoot, our American cousin's name for Sasquatch. They tried a thermal imager and animal calls without success and, then, one night, at about 2:30 a.m., they planted some fruit by the side of the road. Next morning they returned to the spot and someone said they saw an image in the mud. Fortunately, the expedition members had 90 kgs of plaster on hand and were able to make a cast of the image. (City Limits looked at the image on the Internet and could not make head nor tail of it but perhaps that's because of City Limits' limited imagination.) Sasquatch hunters are excited by the find. "It is by no means definitive proof," Meldrum said from Pocatello, Idaho. "It is one more piece. It is a significant find because of its unusual characteristics."

> **"It is one more piece. It is a significant find because of its unusual characteristics"**

Among the exciting evidence is a single strand of hair, believed to be from some kind of primate. Alas, Meldrum said, researchers are unable to do DNA testing on the hair. But they are trying to look for DNA evidence on traces of saliva that may be left on the uneaten bits of fruit. For Meldrum, the print of the elongated heel showing unusual skin ridge patterns, comparable to fingerprints, is particularly exciting. Could the whole thing be a hoax? "That's always a chance," he said. "We'll never know for sure short of finding a specimen in our hands.

OLYMPIAN, Olympia, WA - July 11, 2000

IN SEARCH OF SASQUATCH



Steve Bloom/The Olympian

Gene Sampson lays down Sunday on the Hoh Tribal Reservation in a flattened grassy area that he says he believes is a Bigfoot resting spot. The location is one of several that Sampson and tracker Fred Bradshaw contend have yielded evidence of the creature.

Hoax or not, man hot on the trail of Bigfoot

BY DARREN SAMUELSOHN
THE OLYMPIAN

HOH INDIAN RESERVATION — Gene Sampson has his eyes on the woods, and he thinks the woods are staring back.

For three weeks, the 44-year-old former commercial fisherman, former Hoh Indian tribal chairman and perpetual journeyman says he's been on the trail of three Sasquatch, the elusive and giant ape-like creatures that some believe roam the world.

Sampson's findings have believers and disbelievers weighing in on a timeless debate that has survived into the 21st century. Web sites devoted to Sasquatch, also known as Bigfoot, are claiming tens of thousands of Internet hits a day.

For many, Sasquatch still inhabits the same mythological world as the UFO and the Loch Ness Monster.

For others, it lives in the woods.



Steve Bloom/The Olympian

Crossed sticks are a method used by Bigfoot to mark trails, according to Sampson and Bradshaw.

"They've got a great disguise," says Grover Krantz, a retired Washington State University anthropology professor who is convinced Bigfoot exists. "Their worst threat is humans, and most humans think they don't exist. What could be neater?"

Sampson said he believed Bigfoot existed even before he found what he says are some 17 evidence sites in and around the Lower Hoh Indian Reservation on the remote west side of the Olympic Peninsula. His tribe, like many others in the Pacific Northwest, share the story of Bigfoot with little children as a way to keep them indoors and safe at night.

But now Sampson is on his own quest to meet the Sasquatch family that, he says, is leaving mammoth footprints, arranging sticks in X-shaped special codes, bedding down in tall grass along the Hoh River, eating berries and putting tree limbs "higher than any bear could throw."

Since mid-June, Sampson has been guiding visitors, investigators and others around the reservation and along U.S. Highway 101. Last weekend, he took Fred Bradshaw, a Bigfoot tracker from Elma, into sites in his wooded backyard where young tribal children play and older kids often sneak to smoke cigarettes.

"Either I'm tracking Bigfoot, the three biggest bears or a gang of pranksters, but one way or another I'm catching up to them," Sampson said.

A skeptical Sasquatch investigative team from the British Columbia-based Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization has looked into Sampson's claims.

After visiting the reservation for a few hours, the BFRO team concluded the sites were unusual but lacked the earmarks of other Sasquatch sites.

Sampson was displeased with the BFRO's doubts and the dismissal of his findings by area federal Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.

Sampson, who kept the BFRO team from seeing all of his sites, says the crew based its conclusion on partial evidence.

Cliff Crooks, meanwhile, has also been on the scene. The 59-year-old from Bothell is a lifelong Bigfoot tracker who is known to be as elusive as the creature he's chasing, disappearing into the woods for days in search of clues.

Crooks has been on Sasquatch's tracks since 1956, amassing more than 400 plaster footprints and, with his wife Carol, serving as technical adviser for the 1987 Bigfoot film "Harry and the Hendersons."

Last weekend, Crooks was decked in Bigfoot's favorite color — black — and was seen zooming around the reservation in his red BMW, each time returning to Sampson's home with a new footprint casting or a couple of hairs that he'd stored in a plastic Ziploc baggy for future DNA testing.

He was particularly thrilled on Saturday with an envelope that contained warm and odorous droppings believed to come from the Sasquatch's nether regions.

"The amount of trails here and other Bigfoot-suspected signs would take many men years to fabricate and which nature's elements would have erased within a matter of weeks," Crooks wrote of his investigation in a one-page "Sasquatch File Report."

Patience and trust, Sampson says, will have the final say in whether or not Sasquatch hunters ever get a glimpse of Bigfoot.

"If there's any truth to what I've gotten, then we'll wait," he said. "It's being solved in Mother Nature's way."

Phenomenal evolution

Some say Bigfoot has roots in evolution while others believe the creature originated in the imagination of loggers.

If you believe in Sasquatch, then you'd probably subscribe to theories that the creature came from either the African ape or the orangutan, said Krantz.

The former theory says that around 5 million years ago, when one branch of the African ape stood on two feet, they soon after divided into two groups and some got smarter (humans), while others grew bigger (Bigfoot.) The orangutan theory, meanwhile, says that 4 million years ago, the mammal stood on two legs and became the first in a long line of Sasquatch.

Robert Walls, an anthropologist and folklorist from eastern Pennsylvania says that Bigfoot is a myth that evolved out of tall-tale loggers.

"It seems to be a way of kind of re-enchanting the wild forests that were out there and were starting to disappear," he said. "They were putting logging roads in areas where they never had them before. (Bigfoot) somehow makes the area wild when in fact it wasn't as wild as people are used to it being."

While Bradshaw cites Bigfoot evidence dating back to colonial America and 18th and 19th century expedition by Lewis and Clark, the first large-scale reports appeared on Bigfoot in 1958.

Logger Jerry Crew was pictured in newspapers nationwide that year holding up a large footprint cast found in a remote area at Bluff Creek, which is about 300 miles north of San Francisco.

The first film footage of what some say is Bigfoot came in 1967, when Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin of Yakima set off on horseback in the Six Rivers National Forest in northern California. The film shows a female creature walking along a streambed, looking toward the camera and then moving off into the woods.

In the more than 30 years since the film first appeared, its authenticity has been pried and poked by both Bigfoot doubters and believers.

Crooks committed treason in some circles when he said last year that a computer enhancement showed that the film was a fraud.

Krantz, meanwhile, is among many who continue to defend the film.

"I went through it, frame by frame, measuring everything I could on it ... what the body proportions were ... and I can state flatly that there is no human being alive who could fit into a costume with the dimensions that are shown there," he said.

The debate continues

According to Walls, Bigfoot isn't as big of a phenomenon as it once was. Today's stories are coming from people interested in writing books on the subject and are unfamiliar with bear prints or likely to believe in something that has been faked, the folklorist said.

"People who know the woods don't seem to be saying this kind of stuff anymore," he said.

But according to the BFRO, Bigfoot is alive, well and migrating throughout the world.

The organization claims it gets 30,000 and 50,000 website hits a day, which includes 10 sightings a day that are both recent and date back to the 1970s.

Indeed, the latest Bigfoot information is bouncing around in cyberspace at a rapid pace, which to some is a sign of closing in on the creature.

"The Internet is going to be our vehicle to find the answer to this phenomenon, absolutely," says John Freitas, a 45-year old BFRO investigator and Del Norte, Calif., welfare and fraud investigator. "Instead of days, weeks, months and years after a sighting happens, I can be at a location in under 18 hours. It opens just everything else up."

Indeed, the debate rages on. And in more ways than one. Bigfoot investigators are divided on whether or not to shoot the creature if anyone finds one. Krantz, for one, believes it's the only way to finally end the argument.

"No one is going to pass a law to create a Sasquatch reserve, or send out the Jane Goodall clones until you prove it," Krantz said.

"You can't prove it without a body and the only way to get a body is to shoot one."

Crooks, meanwhile, passes out business cards that say "Peaceful Pursuit."

Watching from the sidelines are people not involved in the immediate pursuit yet intrigued with finding an answer.

Doug Zimmer, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service information specialist in Lacey, grew up on the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. Zimmer remembers how some of his neighbors believed that Bigfoot would visit if you talked about him after dark.

Living there, it's given him a unique perspective on the big question of fact or fiction.

"When you've been there that long on the ground and your family has been there for thousands of years, maybe we as newcomers, as scientists and people who live in cities don't know everything," he says.

"Me, I won't say such a creature does exist and I won't say such a creature doesn't exist. I'll wait until someone shows me a good picture or some good information."

Darren Samuelsohn covers outdoors for The Olympian. He can be reached at 704-6871.

Big facts

Bigfoot is also known as Sasquatch (derived from a Salish Indian word), Yeren (China), Yeti (Himalayas), Alma (Eastern China and Mongolia) and Yowie (Indonesia and Australia).

- **Height:** 6 to 8 1/2 feet.
- **Footprints:** Range in size form 12 to 22 inches.
- **Population:** Some say around 2,000 live in the Pacific Northwest and 10,000 in the United States.

Books

- **"Bigfoot Sasquatch Evidence"** by Grover Krantz. (Hancock House, 1999)
- **"Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide"** by Robert Michael Pyle. (Houghton Mifflin Co, 1997.)
- **"The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide"** by Loren Coleman and Patrick Huyghe. (Avon Books, 1999.)
- **"Field Guide to the Sasquatch"** by The Society of Cryptozoology and David George Gordon. (Sasquatch Books, 1992.)

Web sites

- **Bigfoot Field Researchers** Organization. The site to report a Sasquatch sighting: www.bfro.net.
- **Bigfoot Central:** www.angelfire.com/biz.bigfootcentral.

HERALD, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Aug. 3, 2000

Monster hunters set trap for Nessie's cousin

REUTERS
OSLO, NORWAY

An international team of monster hunters unveiled a giant trap Wednesday for catching a fabled serpent, reputed to be a cousin of Scotland's Loch Ness monster, in a lake in southern Norway.

"This is the first serpent trap of its kind in the world," said Jan Sundberg, a Swede leading a team of 12 hunters.

The three-metre-long tube-shaped trap, comprising a metal frame with nylon netting, will be lowered into Seljord lake in southern Norway. It will contain live whitefish for bait to catch an elusive beast known as Selma.

"The trap is adapted from a fish trap for eels. If anything up to about six metres long swims in one end, the opening closes and it won't be able to get out," said Sundberg, a veteran of several inconclusive high-tech scans of the murky lake.

For two weeks, the team will dangle the cage in the lake, about 160 kilometres southwest of Oslo, at depths of 30 to 100 metres, near where sightings of the monster have been reported.

Two biologists at the University of Oslo were ready to fly down by helicopter and take tests if the trap works. "We'll take a DNA sample, document the serpent and then release it into the lake," he said. "We will be very careful not to hurt it."

Experts on land would try to track unexplained movements underwater with hydraphones and sonars.

Sundberg said the team recorded whale-like noises during a visit in 1999. "We'd be disappointed if we don't get some kind of result this time . . . the only evidence scientists would accept is a dead or a live serpent."

The beast was first spotted around 1750, and most accounts agree it looks like a serpent with the head of an elk or a horse. Seljord is a town of about 1,500 people at the head of the picturesque lake, about 15 kilometres long.

CR: W. Benedict

A. F. U.
Box 11027
600 11 NORRKOPING
Sweden

ADVOCATE, Baton Rouge, LA - Sept. 15, 2000 CR: W. Theriot



Associated Press photo

Earl Whitstine poses in Cotton Island with a plaster cast of a footprint taken from the site last month where he said he saw Bigfoot. 'The guy with Wildlife and Fisheries said someone was playing a prank on me,' Whitstine said. 'People have made fun of me, but they didn't see what I saw.' Whitstine's father was part of a Bigfoot hoax in the 1970s.

Many in central La. fear Bigfoot

By CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press writer

Bigfoot has been the talk of the diner in the little western Louisiana town of Zwolle since word got out that Hosea Remedies sighted a hairy monster a month ago.

"Customers kept on talking about it and talking about it, so I told them I'd start serving a Bigfoot burger," said Sharon Leone Pearce, manager of Bill and Sissy's Diner.

That lasted but one day. Some customers didn't find it funny to see their fears about a lurking beast posted as a joke.

Bigfoot is no laughing matter to some folks in the bayous of central Louisiana, where there have been four sightings this summer and some parents are keeping their children indoors. Some older people are so scared that they've given up the evening feeding of farm animals.

Sheriff's deputies and wildlife officials say it's the work of pranksters, but logger Earl Whitstine isn't backing off his account of a hairy, foul-smelling beast.

"People have made fun of me," he said, "but they didn't see what I saw."

Whitstine and another logger said they spotted the creature Aug. 25 in some cypress swamps called Boggy Bayou, near Cotton Island about 20 miles from Alexandria.

That report prompted Larry Satcher, a fisherman, to say he had come across a similar beast in those same woods a few weeks earlier.

Then 74-year-old Remedies came forward with his own month-old sighting, a clear 100 miles away from Cotton Island, on the other side of the state, in Sabine Parish. He said he was mowing his lawn when the hairy Bigfoot appeared.

Now, landowners around Zwolle are wondering if this doesn't explain some hogs that were killed these past months.

Allen Rivers, Zwolle's assistant mayor, said a couple of his hogs were killed by "something out there that's dangerous, that has some pretty big claws and pretty big teeth."

Bigfoot? Wild cat? Hungry black bear? Retired game warden Steve Malik said he'd surely like to bag a Bigfoot.

"God dang, everyone has seen it, why can't I?"

Capt. Bryan Poston of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said the hysteria has gotten way out of hand.

"As far as I'm concerned, any Bigfoot sighting is a hoax," he said. "I deal in facts, and until I am shown facts, I will not give them any credibility."

Still, hundreds of folks visiting Mary Ward's bait shop in Cotton Island in Rapides Parish hardly talk about anything else. Her son Joe was one of the loggers who say they saw the legendary creature.

Since then, the Wards have sold tickets and Bigfoot T-shirts to those who stop to gawk at 16 massive tracks on her Cotton Island land.

On Wednesday, LSU lab tests of hair taken from the Cotton Island sighting revealed it was from a horse, and Rapides Parish sheriff's deputies formally closed their investigation — without classifying it a hoax.

The Cotton Island sightings echo a similar sighting 25 years ago, when Whitstine's father and a friend made a plywood Bigfoot footprint and laid down giant tracks in the woods.

The prank was exposed and was largely forgotten until this summer, but Whitstine insists this sighting is for real.

So does Satcher, the fisherman in Boggy Bayou: "I know what I saw, and it was no man in a suit."

On the Internet:
Bigfoot organizations: www.BFRO.net
www.ochbo.com

NEWS, Detroit, MI - Nov. 8, 2000 CR: T. Lemire

Monster hurdles remain at Loch Ness

Underwater mikes used to detect fabled serpent.

By Ed Cropley
Reuter

LOCH NESS, Scotland — An international team of monster hunters have began a search for the most famous and elusive resident of Loch Ness, using an underwater microphone designed to detect Soviet nuclear subs.

Sounds high-tech?

Sure, but it shows life is not what it used to be for stalkers of the weird and wonderful, where credibility is frequently as slippery a catch as fabulous creatures.

In August, Swedish hunter Jan Sundberg trawled a Norwegian lake with a giant trap in an attempt to net "Selma," a fabled serpent reputed to be a distant cousin of Nessie.

The world's media looked on avidly, only for Sundberg and his crew to return to shore monsterless.

A veteran of 25 years scouring murky waters across the world, Sundberg has banned the word "monster" — he favors "unknown animal" — and scaled back his ambitions.

Even though the Loch Ness Monster has the biggest reputation of them all, he is in the market merely for noises from the depths of Britain's largest lake.

"We're not here for photos. Nobody trusts them anymore — they are too easy to fake," Sundberg said shortly before donning the headphones of the adapted submarine listening device lent to him by the Norwegian navy.

"We heard a large swooshing sound on the hydrophone last time we were here. It sounded like a big animal with large flippers moving through the water. We are looking to get more of that," he said.

His five-man Anglo-Swedish amateur team can then check the sounds against library recordings of large eels, fish and seals and see if they have hit on something new.

Sundberg hunts with the blessing of the handful of locals who live along the shores of Loch Ness, a 35-mile long, 750 feet deep freshwater lake.

The monster is one of Scotland's most celebrated offspring and lures thousands of visitors from Tokyo to Tel Aviv to the Scottish Highlands, a remote and impoverished area whose economy is highly dependent on tourism.

St. Columba, the holy man attributed with first bringing Christianity to Scotland, was the first to clash with a fearsome lake beast in 565 A.D.

Nessie has since appeared variously in hoaxed photos as a multicoiled sea serpent or a long-necked aquatic dinosaur.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 15, 2000 CR: G. Conway

New quest to probe legend of Ogopogo

There's a $2-million prize for anyone who can prove there really is a lake monster.

By SUZANNE WILTON

KELOWNA — It was Oct. 17, 1978 and precisely 12:45 p.m.

Bill Steciuk was on his way to work, crossing the floating bridge that connects Westbank to downtown Kelowna, when he glanced to the right and saw something emerge from the waters of Lake Okanagan.

"I distinctly saw three humps and what I thought was a head coming out of the water," recalls a grinning Steciuk.

The image of what he believes was the elusive Ogopogo lake monster is as fresh in Steciuk's mind today as it was 22 years ago.

Now, he wants to prove what he saw was the serpent-like creature said to have lurked in the depths of Lake Okanagan for more than 100 years.

For the next three weeks, he plans to look for the beast using three different kinds of sonar and an underwater camera mounted on a remote operating vehicle similar to the one used to examine the *Titanic*.

It's a dream that could also pay dividends. A local tourism bureau is offering $2 million to the first person to provide indisputable proof that the monster exists.

The proof must include photographic evidence and an original negative showing the suspected Ogopogo as a minimum of seven metres in length. All evidence, which must be submitted before the contest ends Sept. 1, 2001, will be reviewed and verified by a group of cryptozoologists.

Steciuk's story is just one of hundreds chronicled over the years, most of them in a book by local author and Ogopogo expert Arlene Gaal, who has dedicated much of her life to verifying sightings of what she calls USOs — unidentified swimming objects.

Gaal, who says she saw the creature herself more than two decades ago, researched the local Chamber of Commerce archives and found reports of sightings as far back as 1860.

Before the white settlers arrived, an Indian tribe here both revered and feared a sacred creature they called N'ha-a-itk.

Steciuk assembled a volunteer crew of Kelowna residents and secured sponsorship to fund the expedition, which was initially budgeted at about $400,000. He won't reveal the final figure.

California-based Interphase Technologies provided thousands of dollars worth of sonar equipment to scan the bottom of the lake, while Kelowna-based CAN PRO Diving has provided the ROV camera. A film company, Tripod Films and Video Productions, is chronicling the expedition for a documentary.

Calgary Herald